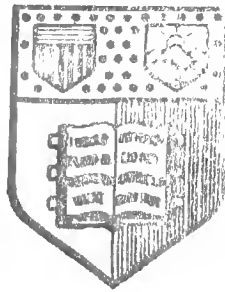
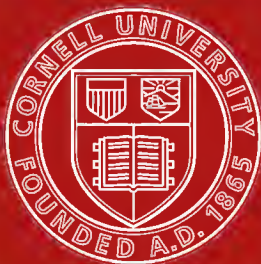


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# DUTCH PAPERS

EXTRACTS FROM THE "DAGH REGISTER"

1624-1642



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BANGKOK,

1915.

ASIA

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1915a

**EXTRACTS FROM THE DAILY JOURNAL  
kept in Batavia Castle, containing an account  
of events occurring over the Netherlands-Indias  
and more especially concerning Siam.**

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Owing to an error in printing, page 49 follows page 45,

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and

page 97 follows page 93.

1624.

*7th February.* To-day arrives from the Malacca Sea the yacht St. Laurens accompanied by a Siamese junk with a cargo of rice, and salt, captured off Lingga by one of our cruising yachts. The above junk was presumed to be sailing to Malacca.

The Nachoda of this vessel and two of his principals, who were brought before his Excellency the Governor General, stated that they intended to sail with their junk and cargo to Johore and Jamby and not to Malacca, but having the wind and current against them, had missed the above ports and been carried off Lingga, where they had been captured when sailing in a suspected direction and brought to Batavia. His Excellency and his Councillors, after perusing the ship's documents and inspecting the ship's cargo, found out that same was destined for Johore and Jamby as well as for Malacca, and decided to give the Siamese a provisional license to sell their cargo at best obtainable prices and that in case same could not be disposed of at the ordinary rates, they should have the option of delivering their cargo to the Company at a reasonable price. Moreover the Sabander is instructed to assist the Siamese as much as possible in the selling of their goods, hoping that this may modify any ill-will caused by our authoritative action and moreover induce foreign merchants, trading in hostile waters, to deviate from their ordinary course and call on Batavia.

*10th February.* To-day the above Siamese came to the Fortress and requested that we should allow them to commence the sale of their cargo and to protect them against damage, as their junk had got leaky. Thereupon his Excellency offered to have the cargo transhipped into one of his own vessels, till the junk should be repaired, or to buy their merchandise for the Company's account, if we could agree upon the price.

1625.

*19th March.* To-day sails for Jamby and Siam the yacht "Brotcha," belonging to the privateers, with the special charge and permission to trade with Siam, and to harm our enemies as much as possible.

As it is the intention of the shipowners of this yacht to buy a large junk in Siam, to load same with rice and other provisions and to despatch her to Batavia, accompanied by the "Brotcha," His Excellency has agreed to buy all rice brought from Siam to Batavia (the arrivals from Mattaram being rather inconstant owing to bad crop or hostile feelings against Batavia) at the following prices :

White rice at  $4\frac{1}{2}$  gatang per reael, the second quality at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  gatang per reael, thus hoping to free the Company from paying trade commissions and to obtain for it a profit.

1628.

*1st June.* The vessel "De Cammeel" has returned from Siam with a cargo of timber instead of rice, the crop being so scarce that the King did not allow any export. There is hardly any rice available in Batavia as the yachts "De Hooppe" and "Den Haring" have also returned from Siam without any rice ; the flyboat "van Goreym" brought 150 loads for private account, without which there might have been famine. Fortunately the Moluccoes have still got large stocks, so that no rice will have to be shipped thence this year ; moreover this would have been out of the question in consequence of the present scarcity.

*26th July.* To-day the vessels "Oudt-Mourritius" and "Suydt Hollandt" sailed for Siam to load rice with Willem Cunningham on board, who carries letters and presents for his Majesty from his Excellency the

Prince. It is to be hoped that he will succeed to come into favour with the King again, for it appears, that he would be rather unwelcome and not able to obtain any rice without these presents and letters. At the same time Willem Cunningham has instructions to leave one or two assistants with sufficient means of existence behind in Siam, so as to enable us to continue the usual yearly commissiontrade, especially in rice, with ships to Siam.

## 1631.

*5th December.* To-day arrives from Siam the vessel "Wapen van Hoorn," by which the merchant Paulus Croock sailed thence on.....(not filled in) with a cargo of 300 loads rice, and 1000 picols sapanwood, and reports that almost a full cargo has been secured for the vessels "Mauritius" and "Negapatnam," being 450 loads of rice and 3000 picols sandalwood for the former vessel and 40 loads of rice for the latter.

The King sends to his Excellency and also to the Prince of Orange a missive with valuable presents in reply to his Excellency's missive, sent by the above-mentioned vessels to the King, which have been highly appreciated and have been received by the King himself with such solemnities and honours as never heretofore have been shown to any ambassador.

## 1630.

Last year the King, who feared that the Japanese residents might attack and murder him, intended to surprise the Japanese on a certain date and to kill them, for which purpose he held 4000 soldiers at disposal. The Japanese, however, who had been warned in time, made their escape unnoticed in a junk, which was moored abreast of their quarters and sailed down the river. They were, however, pursued by a Siamese fleet of 100 vessels and 4000 men to the estuary, and then

succeeded in driving the Siamese back, killing 500 of their enemies.

As the Japanese were not allowed to land in Ligor, they sailed to Cambodia, trying to induce that country to declare war on Siam. The Siamese by way of defence left a fleet of about 100 vessels moored in the mouth of the Menam.

The King earnestly appealed to the Dutch for help, this explaining the above extraordinary honours shown by his Majesty.

The King also intends to despatch a fleet of 100 vessels to punish Patani, which failed to recognise the Siamese Supremacy, relying on Portuguese assistance.

Two of the King's junks would accompany the vessel "Mauritius" from Siam to Java, with a cargo of 400 loads of rice.

Deer-hides were far under market price in consequence of the Japanese departure and our not being willing to buy any. The market for white pepper is abnormally high.

The cloth-trade was also in a very unfavourable condition, owing to the three-yearly supplies from the privateers Haps and Meerwyck, which, as trade was very bad in Tanassery, arrived thence in Siam on 21st August with a cargo of 160-170 cases piece-goods, amounting to about 30-40000 reaellen, which did not only spoil the market for cloths, benjamin and other merchandise, but also the Monopolies of the Barke-lang and Sabander, thus causing a heavy loss to the East India Company.

The above Meerwyck had during 6-8 months, and the Haps on her voyage to Siam, met with so much trouble and so many difficulties with the King of



Siam's subjects in Tanassery, that the King of Tanassery had accordingly complained to his Siamese Majesty and this had caused considerable jealousy against us in Siam, which could only be excused on account of our friendly mutual relations.

On the 11th arrives a big Siamese junk with 210 loads of rice, 10 loads having been jettisoned during the voyage. She reports that another junk has accompanied her from Siam, and that she met Commander Carel Lievensen's fleet cruising to the South of Malacca.

On 30th arrive from Siam the vessels "Mauritius" and "Negapatnam," with about 500 loads of rice. The merchant of this vessel reports that the King of Cambodia, together with the Japanese who fled from Siam some time ago, intends attacking Siam with a big army and fleet by water, whereas the King of Siam has despatched a big fleet under the command of the King of Ligor to make head against the enemies; also that Ava and the King of Pegu sailed down the river to attack Siam by land, and that the King had called all available men together and despatched them to attack the hostile army.

1632.

*4th January.* The flyboat "van Velsen" arrives from Cambodia and reports that the King of Cambodia, with the assistance of the expelled Japanese, intends to declare war on Siam during the next year, that the Japanese for this purpose have sailed already from Cambodia with seven junks, intending to cruise near the Estuary of the Menam and to attack any inward and outward bound vessels.

*14th April.* To-day is handed to his Excellency a missive written by Francois Jacopsen, mate, who has arrived in Cambodia with some Japanese junks, belonging to Master de Firando, and advises his Excellency as follows:

On the 1st day of February there arrived in Cambodia two vessels of resp. about 100 and 180 tons loading capacity with 500 men, of which 300 white men with sundry ammunitions and tools. During April there are expected to arrive from Manila off the Cambodia River 6 galleons, 2 yachts, 5 big galleys and 10 frigates with a crews of 2,500 whites and 1,500 Pampunese with the purpose of destroying Siam, obtaining a valuable booty and to conquer the vessels, bound for Patani, Siam, Cambodia and Toyan. The Governor General, after examining these statements and verifying them with information obtained from various Portuguese prisoners, is of opinion that the Spanish of Manila are brooding mischief against Siam and consequently decides, in order to protect the Company's vessels, to harm the enemy and to prevent Siam from being destroyed, in view of old friendship and the yearly subsidies, to despatch the following vessels to Siam:

Hollandia	Crew 120-140
de Sterre	„ 40-10
Weesph	„ 50-10
Coudecerccke	„ 40-10
Wieringen	„ 40-10
Salm	„ 40-10
Grootenbroeck	„ 50-10
Seeburch	„ 40-10
Catwyck	„ 40-10
Assendelft	„ 40-10

These ships shall sail to the Island of Timon with the utmost despatch, where the enemy is understood to be cruising at present, to harm them as much as possible and thereafter proceed to the Gulf of Siam where the yachts Seeburch, Catwyck, Assendelft and Grootenbroeck shall leave the fleet and sail with their cargo to Toyan, as the Commander and Council are of opinion that the fleet will be strong enough without them. Thereupon the remaining ships shall sail to Siam

as soon as possible in order to harm the enemy as much as is in their power with the Lord's aid.

If no hostile vessels are met with, the ships "Hollandia" and "de Sterre" will try to secure a full cargo of rice, sapanwood and other merchandise, whereas the yachts Weesph, Condecerecke, Wieringen and Salm will proceed to Cambodia River to learn whether the new Spanish galleon and the two aforementioned vessels are lying somewhere in the River or have left already. In the former case the fleet will enter the River and try to conquer or destroy these vessels with the Lord's aid without regard to the King of Cambodia or his Grandees; in the latter case the fleet will proceed from Cambodia River to the Bay of Pandoran or Commoryn to destroy a Spanish ship said to be built there. In case of uncertainty, if the Commander deems it more advantageous to cruise for Portuguese vessels plying between Macao and Manila, he may do so, but he must arrive in Toyon by the end of August, calling on the way at some ports in the Gulf of Cochin China, to deliver certain letters to the King, if this can be done without prejudice. Afterwards the vessels that cannot be filled up at Toyon will sail with the North Monsoon to attack the Portuguese vessels going from Japan and Macao to Malacca.

*26th November.* To-day arrive from Siam the yachts "Bommel" and "Tessel," commander Anthonie Caen, with a cargo of sapanwood.

On 20th August the vessels called at Patani and it is reported that the Queen was not to be persuaded to come to a friendly settlement with the present King of Siam, whom she calls an usurper of the Crownland, a rascal, murder and traitor, that in no case she would be found willing to show any homage to the Siamese, as the Crown of Patani had in olden times always evinced to the former Kings of Siam.

The afore-mentioned Commander explained to her

that this strange way of proceeding, the damage caused and insults made by Patani to us as well as to the King of Siam, should never be forgotten by either of the two and accordingly advised her to behave. As it was understood that no trade could be carried on in consequence of the hatred against the Siamese, he gave notice of his intention to leave, after having a splendid banquet with the local traders.

The "Bommel" and "Tessel" are reported to have sailed from Patani on 31st August, to have crossed the Bar on 9th September and to have arrived in the town of Ayuthia on 14th September.

Although Commander van Caen had principally been despatched to assist the King of Siam against Spanish attacks, yet he did not meet with such a cordial reception as expected, considering the reasons of his arrival, as he had to wait from 14th September till 1st October before he was admitted to the King's, Barkelang's or the Prince's presence. Moreover no business could be started before 24th September, when the weighing of the sapanwood was commenced, notwithstanding the continual efforts on our side, the Sabander trying to put us off day after day with ridiculous pretexs.

On 1st. October the Commander and his train were called by some influential Siamese citizens and brought to the Palace, where he was shown in after two hours waiting. There he had to wait for another hour before he was admitted alone to the Inner Court. He had to wait a long time again before the door, the Siamese in the meantime lying with their faces on the earth, until they were admitted. Then he had to walk 300 steps in a stooping attitude, the above Siamese crouching along the way on hands and feet till they reached the King's Mansion. After he had entered in a crouching attitude and found all the Mandarins and Senators of the Kingdom present, lying with their faces on the earth, the King made his

appearance before a large gilt window, with thick gilt lattices, and ordered that the Missive of His Excellency the Governor General, which had been translated three times with the utmost difficulty, should be read aloud. Then he asked after the condition of Batavia, the success of the voyage, the Commander's health and other trifling matters. After the Commander had replied, he ordered that the Barkelang should assist us as much as possible in our enterprises, and retired.

On 2nd October the Commander made his appearance before the Barkelang, and after obtaining 500 loads of rice, he proposed to the Barkelang, that the King, in view of our valuable assistance, should allow the Company to buy every year about 500-600 loads rice and that all sapanwood and deer-hides available should be sold to the Company only. The Barkelang only replied with some polite compliments, but promised to use his influence to obtain the King's consent.

After the Commander had paid a similar visit to the Prince and obtained 200 loads of rice, he was requested to make his appearance before the King on 15th October to take leave in the same way as described before. His Majesty's letter to his Excellency the Governor General was read aloud and his Excellency in brief terms thanked for the friendship shown to his junk and crew, for the special expedition to Patani and his valuable assistance and similar expressions without any result, whereupon the King shut his window and left.

On 17th October the Commander was requested to appear before Barkelang to translate his Majesty's letter and afterwards invited to dinner; the Barkelang however did not even condescend to join and remained in a small dark room, speaking with the Commander through a narrow window.

On the 19th the Commander was again called before Barkelang to take his final leave. Barkelang was now more communicative and promised to do everything in his power to increase our influence in Siam, especially regarding the proposed contract for rice, deerhides and sapanwood, and bade the Commander a polite farewell and safe voyage.

The Commander, after having taken his leave, sailed down the River on 20th October and proceeded on 23rd with the yachts "Tessel" and "Bommel" from the Bar to Batavia, leaving the vessels "t Wapen van Delft" and "t Wapen van Hoorn" behind to obtain the promised cargo of rice with instructions to sail to Batavia as soon as possible.

### 1633.

*26th January.* To-day arrives a Siamese Junk with a cargo of 60-70 loads rice and reports that the vessels "t Wapen van Hoorn" and "t Wapen van Delft" have received their cargo of rice already and are ready to sail for Batavia within a few days.

*9th March.* To-day arrive from Siam the vessels "t Wapen van Hoorn" and "t Wapen van Delft" and the yacht "De Zon" with a cargo of 974 coyan rice, 6000 picols sapanwood, 289 jars oil and sundries, amounting to F: 115417-11-12. The merchants of the vessels report that the Governor of Ligor had instigated them against the King of Siam and that in no case was he willing to show any homage to the Siamese Crown as long as the present King will be reigning, whereupon the King has sent a fleet and an army to Ligor to subdue this country.

*16th December.* To-day arrives from Siam "t Wapen van Hoorn" reporting as follows:

As the King of Siam had made the necessary preparations for war, to march against Patani with a

powerful army in March next, none of the King's vessels or any vessels belonging to private Siamese merchants will sail with rice to Batavia, the more so because it is rumoured that rice prices in Java are rather low, thus leaving hardly any profit. Notwithstanding all this we may expect this year another 600 loads of rice, viz :

t Wapen van Hoorn.....	46	last
The yacht " Weesph".....	110	„
„ „ „ Tessel ".....	50	„
t Wapen van Delft.....	64	„
the flyboat " Velsen ".....	about 200	„
with a junk belonging to a certain Chinese merchant in Batavia.....	50	„
with a junk belonging to certain native citizens in Batavia.....	30	„
		—————
		about 550 last

The Missive and presents sent by the Prince of Oranje, which were presented by the specially appointed commissioner Jan Joosten de Roy, have been received by the King and other Grandees with such gratitude, honour and solemnity, as never heretofore and the result had already been noted, the Company enjoying several special favors.

In reply to the above missive the King has sent by Jan Joosten de Roy to his princely Grace another message and presents, consisting however principally of confirmations of friendship and other polite respects.

Considering the favourable result, we have availed ourselves of this opportunity to propose to the King that all deerhides available in the Kingdom should be sold to the Company at a fixed price. The King has replied that he was willing to meet our request as much as possible in case we could assist him with a sufficiently strong fleet against Patani and he

felt sure that with our aid he would be able to give Patani a richly deserved punishment, and to alter the Government as he might think fit.

A certain privateer from the Coromandel Coast, Jan van Meerwyck, has several times been blackmailed in business by a Moorish merchant in Siam, Oya Singorat, and as he has not been able to obtain a favourable sentence from the Siamese judge, this man wanted to take revenge and sailed in March last with two Dutchmen, one Mestizo and some blacks from Tanassery to the Coromandel Coast, meeting the King of Siam's ships which had sailed from Tanassery to Masluepatnam off Mergy. He boarded the vessels, ordering that Oya Signorat's factor with all his goods and merchandise should surrender and when receiving a negative reply, they fired their rifles several times, killing one and wounding two officers. Notwithstanding this the Siamese made a gallant defence, the vessel escaped to Mergy and is not willing to make another voyage this year for fear of unexpected attacks. Van Meerwyck, frustrated by the result of his attempt, had caught ten Moorish merchants with about 1000 reael of 8, including their cargo, put them on shore on one of the Mergyse Islands and took French leave with their moneys, under the pretext that one of these Moors still owed him 250 reael.

The news of this affair was carried by a Moor to Ayuthia and written by the Governor of Tanassery to the King of Siam, this causing such a bad feeling against our nation with Siam and the King, that his Majesty in his anger has not only thought of sending a special ambassador to Manila, but has also threatened to arrest the flyboat "Velsen." Meerwyck, who had been wounded in the leg during this skirmish, has arrived in Tayoway, a town of Pegu near Tanassery, and has been arrested by the King of Pegu, whereupon he sent his two Dutchmen and his Mestizo with their



prahoe to the River of Tanassery to await the arrival of his vessel, which he had despatched from Arracan to Atchin and which he now expected in Tanassery. It so happened that when the three spies climbed a mountain to look for this vessel, the native rowers fled with their prahoe to Tanassery, where the expected vessel had arrived and had immediately been arrested by the Governor, the crew and cargo being brought to Siam.

1634.

*2nd January.* To-day arrives from Siam the yacht "Weesph" with a cargo, amounting to F: 5724-7-8 and consisting of 1000 picols sapanwood, 50 coyans paddy, 80 coyans rice, 100 jars coconut oil and 50 pieces planks.

The merchant Joost van Schouten reports that since the departure of the "t Wapen van Hoorn" all the water, owing to un-expected droughts, has flown away and that consequently about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the rice-crop in Siam had been spoiled and only  $\frac{1}{3}$  was in good condition. Accordingly rice prices have not only gone up excessively high, but also during this and the first years to come, export will be strictly limited in consequence of scarcity: therefore our application for 150 loads rice and 200 loads paddy yearly has been rejected and refused.

To punish the rebels in Patani, the King has called together a strong army of over 30,000 men in Ayuthia, which army will march under the command of Oya Barkelang with a great many elephants, horses, guns and ammunition by land to Ligor, where the armies shall meet, whereas soldiers, victuals, guns and ammunition will follow in galleys, frigates and junks by water.

The above army should be joined in Ligor by those from Tanassery, Quedah, Bordelong and Ligor,

and accordingly the King's army was estimated at 50-60,000 men to attack Patani. There was no doubt about his being successful, considering that we shall assist him with some vessels too.

*31st January.* To-day arrives from Siam the yacht "Tessel," which has been repaired there, and sailed on the 1st instant with a cargo of 1800 picols sapanwood, 20 loads rice, 50 loads paddy and 46 teak planks.

In consequence of the King's march against Patani and the bad rice-crop, prices have gone very high this year and rice is difficult to obtain. This also involved small supplies of benjamin and sticklac from the Laos country.

A great part of the Japanese residing in Siam had been ordered by the King to sail ere long with a special vessel for Ligor to join the King's ranks against Patani, and Schouten understood from some influential merchants that the King thus intended to clear the country, not only from the Japanese, but also from the Portuguese, Mestizos and other foreign nationalities.

*14th May.* The merchant Joost van Schouten had before his departure from Siam contracted for large quantities of deer-hides, ray-skins and sapanwood to be able to continue the trade with Japan, and moreover arranged that an excellent shipment of 60,000 deer-hides, 2,000 ray-skins, 4,000 pieces sapanwood, 700 picols lead, 300-400 Cambodja nuts, 100 picols honey, 110 picols penangnuts and 50 picols black sugar will be ready for shipment to Japan as soon as the South Monsoon sets in. The Governor General and his Councillors accordingly decide that the above "Wapen van Delft" under the command of Schouten and with a cargo of bullion, ammunition and merchandise to the amount of F. 70,236-1-10 shall sail to Siam again to load the cargo for Japan without any delay and to return from Japan to Siam with the

North Monsoon with the necessary bullion and merchandise to load there a full cargo of rice, paddy, oil, sapanwood, sugar, lead and benjamin.

To enable a regular loading of “t Wapen van Delft” and other vessels which his Excellency may despatch to Siam with the South Monsoon, to sail to Toyon with the North Monsoon, His Excellency has ordered Schouten to buy and collect the following merchandise before sailing :

800 coyans rice	160 picols sticklac
1000 „ paddy	1000 good teakplanks
12000 picols sapanwood	300 sound „
200 „ lead	400 jars coconut oil
100 „ agilwood	160 picols benjamin
1000 Siam jars with black sugar	

and moreover for the Coromandel Coast as much gold as obtainable, the amount of silver received in Japan during the North Monsoon and any superfluous capital deposited with the Siam Settlement.

To ensure a regular supply of 1,000 coyans rice, 1,000 coyans paddy, 15,000 picols sapanwood and 4,000 picols lead, which his Excellency amongst other goods and merchandise should like to buy from the King of Siam yearly, and for which he should like to contract, his Excellency has decided to assist the King, who has marched with a stong army by land and water against rebellious Patani, Malacca, Johore and Penang, and such by sending the yachts Huysduinen, Bredamme, Concercken, Wieringen and Venlo. After the war is over, the Bredamme, Concercken, Wieringen, Venlo and Huysduinen will sail up the river to secure a cargo of rice and sapanwood for Toyon and the Pescadores.

As regards the Company's godown, which is situated rather far from the river and is moreover impractical, old, leaky and in a tumble-down condition, and so

small as concerns space that it is impossible to store the goods and merchandise which the Company shall in future bring from Batavia for they cannot be protected against moisture and decay, his Excellency has ordered the said Schouten, in order to push Siamese trade, not only to make use of the wharf accommodation of about 300' long alongside the river for loading and discharging offered by the King, but also to ask the King's permission to build a big fireproof brick godown about 100' long and 30-35' broad, for which purpose his Excellency is shipping per the above "t Wapen van Delft" to Siam: 2 Dutch carpenters, 2 black-smiths and 2 masons besides the necessary materials that are not obtainable in Siam.

In order to maintain the Monopoly in deerhides granted to us last year by the King, and to prevent Japanese competition, and to expel from Siam the Japanese who come every year with huge capitals from Quenam and Japan and had to return last year without attaining their end in consequence of the vexations they had to suffer from the Siamese Mandarins, his Excellency had ordered Schouten to draw the King's special attention to the irreverent expressions used by the Japanese Emperor towards his Majesty, to see Berkelang and other influential Siamese and to set them as much as possible against the Japanese, alluding to the unbearable insults and the great nuisance his Majesty had suffered from them.

*9th November.* To-day arrives the flyboat "Huysduinen," which arrived in Toyan from Siam on 18th September with a cargo of sapanwood, 300 picols lead and 24 coyans rice, for which the merchant Joost van Schouten asked :

3-4000 reaalen cheap Chinaware  
 2000 sheets gold-thread  
 600 large iron pans  
 200 pieces carpets

100 picols radix China  
 100 „ Chinese iron  
 20 catties silk for sewing  
 to be sold in Siam.

The above merchant Schouten reports via Toyan to his Excellency the Governor General and his Council as follows :

On 13th June he anchored with the “ Wapen van Deift ” in the Menam, where he met the flyboat “ van Velsen,” which had arrived on 3rd and on her way captured two vessels with a cargo of pepper, pitch and cotton. The “ Velsen ” had called at Sengorah, where she found the Siamese army and fleet, which Captain van Vliet had understood to be in Patani. The army had, however, left Patani for want of provisions ; and although van Vliet had seriously recommended the Mandarin to wait until our vessels should have arrived from Batavia, to assist the King, the army had left Ligor by water and land. From there they had informed the King that they had left Patani owing to want of provisions and the non-arrival of the assistance we had promised, whereupon the King got so angry that he forbade every Siamese to speak to or trade with the Dutch.

But when upon his arrival in India Schouten explained to his Majesty that His Excellency had dispatched six big vessels to Patani for his assistance, which had burned some Patanese junks and had waited a long time for the arrival of the King’s army to besiege the town of Patani, but had understood from some Patanese prisoners (whom he handed over to the King) that the army had left for Sengorah, his Majesty despatched a vessel to Patani to find out the truth of these statements, which thereupon proved to be correct. The King then granted us even more favors than before, and had given us permission to build a new godown. The presents from his Excellency to the

King, Prince, Berkelang and other Grandees have been accepted with great splendour after the various missives had been perfectly translated.

Schouten advised not to ask for any compensation as the King had in no way profited by our assistance, but to leave this matter to his discretion.

The vessel "t Wapen van Delft" had been despatched on 14th July by Schouten to Firando in Japan with a cargo amounting to F: 51,750-7-8 consisting of 71,700 deer-hides, 9,700 ray-skins, 4,000 picols sapanwood, 300 picols Siamese lead, 43 picols tin, 2 p. agarwood, 100 picols honey, 100 picols areca, and 50 picols black sugar, which for the greater part have been secured during van Vliet's stay in Siam.

*13th December.* To-day arrives from Siam the yacht "van der Goes" with a cargo of:

1000 picols sapanwood  
1000 jars black sugar  
400 „ coconut-oil  
20 loads rice  
8 picols gumlack, which had been bought for  
F: 7,083-1-4.

The same yacht brought a letter from Joost Schouten, dated 15th November, stating that the Siamese army had returned from Ligor by land and water in August last in small lots and without attaining their end, having lost some thousands of men through their encounters with the Patanese and death. His Majesty would not allow the principal Commanders to make their appearance to report, but elected a special Committee to make scrupulous investigations. It appeared that when arriving in Patani several hundreds of Siamese have been in the Fortress but that the King of Ligor, who was field-commander, had ordered them to retreat, whereupon the Patanese made a courageous defence. The Siamese army, after many skirmishes without effect, and a month's siege, returned

to Sengorah, waiting for our fleet, but as provisions had run short, and time to return to Patani had lapsed, they finally returned to Siam.

After reading this report the King has concluded that the submission of the Patanese had been neglected because the first opportunity had been missed, and moreover they had not waited for Dutch assistance. Accordingly one commander was beheaded and several others (amongst them Oya Berkelang) were ordered to remain for 3 days in the open, when it should be thoroughly investigated whether they had been justly punished, adding that he saw no other way of punishing his officers than by exposing them during three days to the scorn and disdain of the nation. Thereupon one of the Mandorins begged the King's Pardon, adding that, in case they should return from Patani again without attaining their end, the King might not only punish the offenders with death but extirpate their whole generation.

Notwithstanding these negative results and the fact that his Majesty had hardly profited by our assistance, he had returned to us, in view of our readiness to help, half of the duty the Company had to pay formerly for trading with Siam, being F: 5000, had granted to Schouten by Agreement in writing a certain area of land to build a house on, and consented that our Representative shall appear in the Mandorin's Meetings, which did not only greatly add to the reputation of the Dutch Nation, but also to the special benefit of the Company.

1636.

*26th March.* To-day arrives from Japan via Siam the vessel "t Wapen van Delft" with a cargo, amounting to F: 80182,10, consisting of 10,000 tael Japanese silver, 111,362 catties copper, 4,500 picols sapanwood, 1,050 jars brown sugar, 292 do. indigo, 250 jars oil,

500 teak planks and only 30 coyans rice and 33 coyans of paddy.

From two letters from the merchant Joost Schouten, both dated 4th February, to the Generals Brouwer and van Diemen, and also from extracts of his daily Journal and other documents, it appears that, contrary to the favourable expectations of the King, about  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the ricecrop had been lost and only  $\frac{1}{3}$  come to perfection, in consequence of which rice and paddy went up 7-9 taels and 3-4 taels, afterwards even to 13 and paddy to  $4\frac{1}{2}$  taels per coyan.

Consequently the King could not fulfil his promise concerning the quantities of rice and paddy to be exported, notwithstanding constant presents and repeated requests, not only on account of short crop and famine, but also with regard to the possibility that next year's crop may turn out bad and that he had to look after his people's interests. The influential Siamese citizens also are not willing to sell any rice.

Accordingly all other provisions in Siam are exceedingly dear, so that poverty is suffered all round.

The merchant Joost Schouten had, however, by means of presents to the Queen and Her Ladies finally succeeded in obtaining from the King a license for exporting 50 loads of rice, which he thought could be extended to 60.

Schouten is of opinion that the Siamese are afraid of the increasing power of the Dutch Company and will try to weaken its position by retaining the rice, but that, in consequence of the Siamese trade by sea it will be easier to bring that country to reason than any other in India, without risking anything and at small expense.

In consequence of the Company's trade with Japan and Toyon the Siam Settlement had already a stock of 20,000 deer hides, 4,000 ray skins, 4,000



pcs. ordinary sapan, and 2,000 pcs. of different kinds of cabessa, besides 2,200 pcs. Cambodia nuts and sundries.

The Oya Berkelang, about whose slowness, especially concerning the Company's affairs, Schouten has complained, has been put in prison by the King on 18th December, with the King's Secretary Opra Alack, and chained in five places because they had omitted to reply to a missive from the King of Atchin to the King of Siam. They were set at liberty, however, after a few days.

On the 1st January Oya Piselouck, the richest and most influential mandarin of the Kingdom, Oya Awang, president of the Royal Council, and Oya Yumerat, Officer of Justice, were condemned to hard labour, and Oya Piselouck's house pillaged, because Piselouck with the other prisoners' consent had accused the King's brother of aiming at the crown. After investigation, the report was proved to be false, and accordingly on 23rd January Oya Piselouck had been taken out of prison in chains and, on the bank of the River, cut in two by the executioner. The corpse was left there during two days, and was afterwards burned with many ceremonies by order of the King, at the request of the clergy, in one of the biggest temples in presence of 200 clergymen and some mandarins, and the ashes were deposited in the Royal Tombs.

News had arrived in Ayuthia from Ligor to the effect that the Siamese ambassadors who left for Patani in October last had safely arrived and met with a cordial reception and had fulfilled their mission in such a way that there was every chance of peace, also that the Patanese ambassadors, who had left thither with the Siamese for that purpose, should return ere long.

The King intends bestowing upon Schouten on his departure, besides a missive for the General, 200 picols sapanwood and 25 coyans paddy.

*27th April.* To-day arrives the merchant Joost Schouten with the "Damon" from Siam with a cargo, amounting to F: 37,007-9-12 consisting of 10,000 tael Japanese silver, 100 coyans rice, 200 catties or 236 lbs. agilawood, 35 bags flour, a gold chain and 200 pcs. sapanwood. The junk "Nangasacque" had left the Siamese bar accompanied by the "Damon" with a cargo of 200 pcs. sapanwood and 13 coyans paddy, value F: 995, and 25 coyans paddy sent by the King as a present to the Governor General (as this junk was overloaded 5 coyans had been discharged again and left behind in Siam) so that she may arrive ere long.

From Joost Schouten's report concerning the Company's trade in Siam, which has been handed in writing to the Governor General and his Council, it appears that Schouten has handed over all the Company's means left behind in Siam amounting to F: 141,873-12-12 to Jeremias van Vliet in good order and had given him the necessary instructions for promoting the Company's trade. The goods brought last year to Siam per Buyren, Huysduynen, Assendelft, Bardes, Damon, Delft and Nangasacque had left a profit of F: 42,500.

*29th April.* To-day the Commissioner from the yacht "Damon" welcomes with gun-firing and three discharges from the soldier's rifles the missive and present from the King of Siam addressed to the Governor General, reading literally as follows:

"Sends this letter by order of the King to the generous, wise and honourable sir Master Henrick Brouwer Governor General for the United Provinces of the Netherlands in India Orientalis. Our Master has perceived your Excellency's true affection from your efforts to continue and increase our mutual friendship and your endeavours in that direction by your sending the Captain Joost Schouten with a kind message and valuable presents to Ayuthia to pay homage to his

Majesty. We had your Excellency's message translated and read to the King and handed to his Majesty, with your highly appreciated presents, by Captain Schouten and van Vliet, with the usual ceremonies, and his Majesty was highly pleased to learn of the prosperity of your Colonies under your Reign and your friendly feelings to the King.

"The King has been pleased to hear that your Excellency is willing to assist us in case of war against rebellious Patani. His Majesty has decided to declare war and for this purpose a powerful army with many elephants, horsemen and infantry with guns and ammunition, also a fleet of 200 galleys and frigates, to compel Patani to due respect and reverence, which they owe to the Siamese Crown has been prepared.

"But before the army set off, the King of Ligor has advised his Majesty that the Princess and Mandorins of Patani after many negotiations had decided to keep peace and to show the reverence due, owning their unjust rebellion and humbly asking the King's forgiveness, for which purpose they sent two ambassadors, Sirat Ara Radja and Soy Radja Natsawari with two noblemen with letters and presents, besides golden and silver flowers to Siam to show his Majesty the customary reverence. These ambassadors had arrived in Ligor already and may be expected in Siam ere long. The King has informed the Patanese that he is inclined to forgive their indictable crime and has consequently declared the war off, so that your assistance was not required, but his Majesty will never forget the help you were prepared to give last year by despatching six vessels to Patani and also, though these vessels arrived too late to meet the Siamese army, his Majesty considers this to be a proof of your well-meant and true friendship.

"In His Missive your Worship asked permission to export 1000 coyans paddy and 600 coyans rice from

the King's country. His Majesty has been quite willing to give his consent, but this year in consequence of untimely rains and the insufficient irrigation of the Menam the rice crop is so bad, that only 1/3 has come to perfection. The King for that reason had to give up his intention of marching against Cambodia, and to prevent possible famine, has ordered, on penalty of death, that no rice should be exported. However in view of the inviolable friendship with the Prince of Holland, his Majesty, by way of exception, has allowed Schouten (upon his repeated requests) to export 100 coyans rice and 200 coyans paddy. Your Worship will understand that the King could not reasonably allow the export of greater quantities, as his Majesty, when all provisions were so dear already, has to look after his people's interests.

"Upon your request his Majesty has granted this year special favours to the Captains Schouten and van Vliet and held them in high esteem, treating them like his own vassals. Besides we have lent your people a helping hand wherever possible.

"Finally his Majesty recommends to continue and increase the existing ties of friendship, thus setting a good example to neighbouring Princes, requesting you to pass his good wishes on to the Prince of Holland.

"As proof of his Majesty's affection it is ordered to send your Worship by Captain Schouten 25 coyans paddy and 200 picols sapanwood, requesting your Worship to accept the same as a token of his Majesty's friendly feelings.

"In the town of Judia, this 5th day of the 3rd crescent moon in the year of the hog, being 10th February 1636."

Translation of the King of Siam's titles as they have been written in 1633 in his Missive to the Prince of Orange :

“Happy, original and courageous message in writing like a lion originating from the feet of the most illustrious unconquerable, powerful and divine Lord, the all-seeing Supreme Sovereign of the most noble Kingdom of Siam, the pride of the noble town of Judia, the divine Lord of the Golden House, the white and red elephant, the happiest, greatest and Chief Prince of all Judia’s Crowned Kings, the most beloved of all his vassals who shine like the pure sun and the clear moon in the highest of Heavens, who is worshipped by his subjects with reverence and joy,” etc. (!!!)

Translation of the titles of Oya Berkelang:—  
 “Sire Oya, shining with faith of noble descent from the nearest vassals of the great King, wise and cautious, illustrious and of unequalled Royal Birth, powerful administrator of the King’s income and means and foreign affairs, sends this letter by order of the illustrious unconquerable, most powerful divine and highest Lord the all-seeing Commander in Chief of the most noble Kingdom of Siam, the lustre of the great town of Ayuthia, to the noblemen,” etc. (!!!)

*August 13.* To-day the vessel “Leyden” and “’t Wapen van Delft” leave for Siam with a crew and provisions as follows :

“Leyden” with 100 men and meat, bacon, oil, acetic acid and arrack for four months and rice for two months, “’t Wapen van Delft” also with 100 men and rice for two months, but provisions for six months.

A passenger by the above vessels is Joost Schouten, merchant, to accompany as commissioner the message and presents from the Prince of Orange, brought last year from home to Judia by the fleet of H. E. Mauritius van Ommeren and from the Governor General, to be handed with the usual pomp and solemnities, and to obtain certain favours for the Company regarding the export of rice.

The Prince of Orange’s presents consist of :

1 gold imperial crown, inlaid with emerald pearls, richly decorated, and one imperial sword inlaid with gold.

And from the Governor General :

- 1 Persian goldsheet
- 2   do       do       in velvet
- 1 mirror in ebony frame inlaid with garlands
- 1 piece Carmoisin red cloth
- 1 package mace
- 1 picul cloves
- 1   ,,   nutmeg
- 1   ,,   sandalwood.

By same opportunity a useful cargo amounting to F: 19,830.12.4 besides a missive for the merchant Jeremias van Vliet and a letter are despatched, the latter with the request to have the return cargo and the balance left behind by Schouten in Batavia by the middle of December.

*26th November.* The junk Nangasacque sailed on 16th March with a full cargo of sapanwood and paddy from Siam, but in consequence of unfavourable wind and calms could not continue her voyage and had to return off the Singapore straits accompanied by the vessels "Rarap," "Noortwijck," "Bommel" and "Warmont" arriving before the bar on 22nd June. The other vessels had captured 18 Javanese off Patani, who tried to escape with a small boat and 400 Reaelen, after their junk, loaded with rottan, had been burned.

The Merchant Jeremias van Vliet had met with many difficulties in procuring cargo for Japan (as the King himself intended sending a junk with a Chinese crew to Japan again and also a Chinaman, who arrived from Batavia in 1634). His Majesty dissuaded van Vliet from sending cargo to Japan as the King had already despatched 3 junks with a cargo of about 13,000 pics. sapan-wood, a large shipment of lead, gumlack, elephant tusks, birdskins, birdsnests,

rhino-horns, but small lots of deer-hides, to Canton, and for that purpose had engaged all cargo boats available. This of course greatly impeded van Vliet's efforts to secure cargo. He succeeded, however, with much diligence and trouble by using the flyboat "Warmont" as lighter to despatch the four vessels in time fully loaded with a cargo bought at reasonable prices.

Thus on 19th July the "Rarap" and "Noortwijck" left for Japan with .

103480	deer-hides
17960	ray-skins
3650	pics sapanwood
1600	„ cambodia-nuts
3700	„ buffalo-horns
400	catties agilawood
150	pics black sugar
200	bundles rottan
1200	pieces prepared red deer-hides, value
	F: 67,809.3.12.

On the 22nd and 28th the "Bommel" and "Warmont" leave for Toyon with a cargo of F: 14,884.17.8 consisting of:

2000	pics sapanwood
300	„ Siamese lead
36 $\frac{3}{4}$	„ Gumlack
11 $\frac{1}{4}$	„ agilwood
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	coyans rice
35	„ paddy
132	teak logs
150	„ planks

Except the license for the export of rice (in consequence of the bad crop) van Vliet's requests had often been favourably disposed of by the King, amongst others by cancelling a claim of F: 3600, which some Siamese Grandees pretended to have against the junk "Nangasacque" which arrived from Toyon

with a crew of Dutchmen and Chinese who were Siamese serfs.

The King has arranged truce with Patani after repeated requests and promises to behave in future on condition that the Company and Mandorins from Patani shall send as soon as possible the golden and silver flowers, after which peace will be made.

It is rumoured and partly proved by preparations that His Majesty intends to subdue Cambodia in the same way, in the meantime only awaiting the result of the rice crop.

1663.

*31st March.* It is reported that the strong town of Siamai (Chiengmai) has been conquered by the King of Siam. However the inhabitants of Martavan continue rioting against their lawful King, against whom the Commander Benjelau has been despatched with 8000-9000 soldiers from Pegu.

*11th May.* To-day arrives the small flyboat "Terboedi" from China via Siam with a cargo of 52 loads rice and 13 pics. sapanwood loaded in Siam, value F: 2847, and also brings a letter from the new resident Enoch Poolvoet, dated 15th March, for His Excellency and a copy of his letter of 23rd February, original of which had been despatched per flyboat "Leerdam" but had not yet arrived. He reports about the bad condition of the Company's trade, caused by the Monopoly of the King's factors, who want to do the trade with Japan themselves, and that the King is in bad temper in consequence of the flyboat "Roode Hert" hailing his junk in the Japanese waters, and asking for payment of F: 84000, indemnification, which he claimed last year.

Regarding the Monopoly of the King's factors in merchandise : after the two last marches up-country



the King had hardly any means left and he now seems to try these expedients to make up for his losses. They force their money upon the people for all kind of merchandise to be delivered to the King, so that foreign traders will have to buy from him again; consequently the merchants with whom we do regular business cannot sell us any deer or cow-hides. In the meantime the factors suppose that we are so much in want of these skins, that we shall be compelled to receive them from their own hands. After the merchant Jan van Rijk had left, they built four block-houses to hail all ships coming down the river. Oya Berkelang, whom we have asked for explanation, states that this had been done because the former Captain van Rijk had taken part of the King's hides. Poolvoet has succeeded in obtaining permission that some Chinese and Pegu merchants are allowed to buy all kind of skins for the Company's account up-country. Thus he had collected about 18,000 deer-hides and 1,000 cow-hides. But at present these merchants are not allowed to bring any hides to our office, probably kept back by silent threats. The King's factors have often tried to sell the monopolised hides to Poolvoet but he has refused, believing that he will have to stop purchases for one or two years, as he does not think it possible that they can send all the hides with their own junks to Japan. He shall never in any case whatever buy hides from these factors. They do not only monopolise hides, but also rice, timber, cocoanut-oil, gumlack, benjamin and other produce in which the Company do the greater part of their trade, and it is feared that no purchases can be effected if they continue their present system. The resident Poolvoet has often complained about this unfair treatment to Oya Berkelang, and made him understand that this will cause an ill-feeling in Batavia, because we had come to Siam to do a free and unimpeded trade, as we had done for many years past and that he feared in case conditions were not altered soon His

Excellency would decide to wind the Siam Settlement up. To which Berkelang replied that we should wait patiently for some time, but that matters would be altered as soon as His Excellency in Batavia should write in the matter to the King. The Resident had to be satisfied with the reply for fear of not getting a full cargo for Japan next season. For the same reason the orders for gumlack for Netherlands and Surat could not be executed last year. This year, however, prospects seem more favourable. Wax is very high, 18 to 16 Teyl per picul. Accordingly purchases have been stopped. No sapanwood is available. Purchase of rice had to be stopped for some time, because of the great dearth and the difficulty of obtaining any. Only small rafts of timber have come down the river, in consequence of another expedition to the upper-country which the King is planning and for which all hands available have been pressed again. Moreover the King intends to build a new palace, and besides His Majesty is sending a crew to Japan. When Poolvoet sailed down to give the flyboat "Terboedi" her sailing instructions he met the King's junk, which sailed to Japan last year and had done a very profitable business, which of course will be an inducement to continue this trade. This may involve many difficulties for the Company in collecting hides.

The market for the piecegoods brought by the Company is also in bad condition. In November last 4 Moorish ships arrived from Maslupatam (two of which belonged to the King) with a cargo of all kinds of painted cloths, so that the market is glutted. The Moors often sell to the King for the purchase-price. This of course affects the Company's cloths so that some can only be sold at a profit of 53%. The 2414 catties elephant tusks, which are still in the godowns, will be sent to Japan. It will be preferable to sell with a small profit and to get on with own means than to borrow money at 2% per mensem.

And moreover the King is very much offended by the flyboat "Roode Hert" boarding the King's junk as is reported in last year's Daily Journal under date of 26 November. He accordingly claims 700 catties Siamese Currency or f: 84,000, on which he absolutely insists, and requests Poolvoet moreover to settle to his full satisfaction as soon as possible. Otherwise the Company risk to suffer many insults and perhaps to be expelled from the country. It was expected that His Majesty should have sent the presents, as mentioned in his last year's letter to His Excellency the Governor General. This is, however, not the case and is probably a way of showing his anger. The elephant which Berkelang had advised in his last year's letter has been kept, as the vessel returned from Japan too late and there was not sufficient time to ship before the turning of the Monsoon. This man (Berkelang) bears the Company a friendly feeling, and it is to be recommended that all the Company's requests should pass through him.

The local war is not yet finished. The King understanding that the people of Ava with a powerful army had come down the River to Siammai, (the same town which the King recently conquered) and reconquered many villages, killing all Siamese they met, decided to send four of his bravest Mandarins with a powerful army thither to drive the people of Ava back. Accordingly trade has come to a standstill, and agriculture makes no progress.

The flyboat "Leerdam" has arrived on 10th February from Japan in Siam. In consequence of wrong calculations of her Captain, she sailed far to the South of the Hook of Cuy and thus lost three months. The silver ex "Leerdam" and shipped from Japan to Batavia per flyboat "Vollenhove" may be expected ere long by the Resident, as he is short of means at present. He has sent the flyboat "Leerdam" to Batavia on 25th February with a cargo amounting to f: 25,732.17.8

consisting of 2000 piculs sapanwood  
 2000 jars cocoanut oil  
 400 catties agilawood cabessa  
 400 buffalo horns  
 37 jars honey  
 600 bales Japanese wheat and some  
 timber, but no rice, as the ship was too leaky. When  
 closing his letter he was surprised to understand that  
 the vessel was stuck on the Bar, because the Captain  
 had not followed the course usually taken by ships to  
 cross the Bar, and the South Monsoon had blown  
 during a fortnight with unexpected strength.

*15th May.* At a meeting which has taken place  
 this morning it was decided to wind up the Siam  
 Settlement, however without notifying the King and his  
 servants, to enable the Company's people to bring their  
 belongings, personal effects and money away in safety.

*22nd May.* Let us now have a look at what has  
 happened to the Settlements and Branches to the  
 South and East of Malacca, and let us start with Ligor.  
 The 17th November 1662 the yacht "Hoorn," which  
 had been missing for some time, has arrived in Malacca  
 from Siam via Ligor with a cargo of 143 21/32 Teyl  
 Siamese gold amounting (including some trifling car-  
 go) to f: 26,335.5.6, and 214 bars and 113 catties tin  
 from Ligor. The 25th of the same month the merchant  
 Joannes Massys followed with the *Palleacatte* from  
 Ligor, bringing 480 bars and 209 catties tin, being  
 altogether 695 bars and 22 catties, from which were to  
 be deducted 28 bars handed by sundry persons to the  
 Company to be sold in Malacca at 36 reael per bar,  
 balance 667 bars representing a value of (including all  
 charges and expenses of the Settlement) f: 62,402.19.2  
 so that one Ligor bar of 354 lbs. costs f: 93.11 and 1  
 Malacca bar of 375 lbs. f: 99.2.

*23rd May.* This morning the flyboat "Nollenhove"  
 sails via Siam to Japan with instructions to load a

cargo of hides and merchandise being ready for shipment in Siam, and carrying for this purpose 24 of the 40 boxes silver, obtained from Japan, with her. By secret missive the Resident, Enoch Poolvoet, is separately notified of the reasons which lead to the Company's decision to wind up the Siam Branch and instructed to collect all Company's outstandings and means cautiously and unnoticed so that when our vessels should arrive they can be shipped without risking anything.

*9th December.* To-day arrives the ship "Princesse Royale" from Siam with the balance of the stock, consisting of:

12051 pcs. Spanish reaelen, 5328 piculs sapan-wood, 6154 jars cocoanut-oil, 159½ piculs gumlack, 300 lbs, gold leaf, 1549 deer-hides, 180 pcs. cow-hides, 1097 pcs. cloth, 15 pairs of boots, 20 pairs Japanese cotton stockings, 5 pairs Japanese silk petticoats, 130 Batavia hats, 650 bundles Patanese rottan, 1 golden Penang cup, 12 Japanese silver dishplates, amounting to f: 109,457.9.4. At the same time received a message from the Merchant Enoch Poolvoet and his council, written on board the flyboat "Elsenburg" while she was moored before the Bar of Siam, dated 5th November with enclosures, and containing a report of what had happened since the departure of the flyboat "Terboedi" on 15th March and how the Settlement has been wound up. The Monopoly of the King's Factor, of which we gave already a detailed description in former correspondence, was continued until some days before the above "Terboedi's" departure, thus preventing the Resident from obtaining deer-hides and other merchandise, till at last the tables were turned and the principal cause of this impediment, viz: the Oya Pieschyt, who caused the Company so much damage already, as is stated in former letters, was dismissed. The

King, who was at last informed of his actions and that the staying away of traders from China, Macao and Manilla, was principally due to his monopolising the various Siamese commodities and produce, has put him in prison on 20th of March and confiscated all his property, which is said to amount to 4,000 catties Siamese Currency or F: 480,000. (In the Daily Journal for Siam these means are estimated at 5,000 catties or F: 600,000, sub: 17th May.) The Resident has availed himself of this opportunity and shown the King in writing the various vexations the Company had suffered in consequence of Oya Pieschyt's bad management, requesting His Majesty to prevent such possibilities in future and to grant us a free and unimpeded trade. Consequently the King ordered that the blockhouses built along the river to prevent the import of goods should be pulled down and informed the traders that they could continue selling their goods to us without any fear. On 14th May His Majesty has decided that everybody, who might have claims or complaints against Oya Pieschyt, should mention the same in order to take them into account afterwards. The Resident and some other plaintiffs did so. Consequently the whole of Oya Pieschyt's property, valued at F: 600,000, as stated above, was taken away and he was brought before the King with a rope round his neck and being a Moor compelled to eat bacon after his whole body had been smeared with the same, the King threatening him with a most cruel death. This great change has been quite welcome to the Resident with regard to the cargo for Japan. He has accordingly been able to despatch the flyboat "Vollenhove," which arrived on 16th June (rather late in the season) from Batavia, on 6th July to Japan with a full cargo, amounting to F: 69,672.6.12 and consisting of:

37608 deerhides, 3120 cowhides, 100 piculs namrak (lacquer), 500 piculs sapanwood, 4,200 catties wax, tin, 2,749 catties elephant tusks, 1,150 pcs. buffalo-

horns, 250 catties gutta percha, 20 pieces cloth and some unimportant sundries.

On 23rd March (the letter erroneously states 25th May) one of the King's vessels has returned from Ligor in Siam with a letter from the vice-merchant Joannes Zacharias to the Resident Poolvoet, stating that on 19th November 1662 Opra Sourine Kosa had arrived in Ligor with one of the King's vessels, with an order from His Majesty (obtained through Oya Pieschyt's instigations) that all merchants residing in Ligor should sell their tin to him only at 10 Tael S. C. per bar, thus excluding us and all other foreign traders, and that accordingly not one bar of tin had been negotiated for several months, requesting Resident Poolvoet to make strong complaints to the King and try to obtain a new license for trading with Ligor. The Resident easily obtained this license on 2nd April and sent the same on 17th April to Ligor by the Japanese "Riseymon" from Tonkin. Joannes Massys afterwards replied that the message had been received with great joy, and that trade was going on smoothly again.

Although it appears from the above that everything has turned to the Company's advantage, the Resident fears that the Company will never again succeed in obtaining the turnover of former years which is principally due to the King's war against Ava and his trade with Japan.

Let us now give a short account of the way in which the Company's settlement has been wound up. The day after the flyboat "Vollenhove's" arrival Oya Berkelang asked the Resident whether he had no authorization to pay the King's claim. The reply was negative, and explained in such a way by the Resident that Berkelang believed him. In the meantime the Resident, however, has secretly made the necessary preparations for the winding up. He

hal, waiting for the "Vollenhove's" arrival borrowed F: 12,000, or 100 catties Siamese Currency from the King at 2°/o per mensem, which amount he has refunded with the accrued interest immediately after the flyboat's arrival. Afterwards he has borrowed again 200 catties Siamese Currency or f: 24,000, from the King's Factor, Oloang Fabartiban, obtained license from the King to receive 10,000 pics. sapanwood on credit from the King's stocks, promising payment as soon as the Company's vessel from Japan comes back. Only 4650 pics. however were delivered, there being no more stock, supplies running short on account of the war-troubles.

He has also bought 2,000 jars cocoanut-oil and brought these besides other merchandise to the Company's godown "Amsterdam" near the mouth of the river. Altogether 284.10.14½ catties Siamese Currency or F: 31,145.8.12 have been borrowed.

On the 29th September the vessels "Princesse Royale," "Hoogcaspel" and "Elsenburg" arrived from Batavia. The letters from His Excellency for the King and Berkelang have been read and translated on 6th October with the usual honours. Berkelang, after having noted contents, asked the Resident whether he was sure that the Commissioner mentioned in His Excellency's letter to the King, would come. And when? And if he would bring any presents for the King? Whether it ever happened before that letters without presents were handed to his Majesty? The Resident replied that he expected the Commissioner to arrive in Siam within 20 days with presents. He also thought that twelve years ago it happened once that his Excellency's ambassador brought no presents for the King. Thereupon the Berkelang made no reply and the Resident, after taking his leave, went home.

The news of the expected arrival of a commissioner is the reason that we have been able to make



all preparations without any trouble. Berkelang has asked again on 20th October why the commissioner has not yet arrived. The Resident replied he was much astonished and supposed he had been kept back owing to stress of weather, but he would surely arrive within 6 or 7 days. The vice-merchant left for the mouth of the river with a Pegu junk the same day, pretending to fetch the Commissioner and thus preventing all suspicions. On the 25th October it was rumoured amongst the people that the flyboats "Elsenburg" and "Hoogcaspel" should go cruising for the Chinese junks from Japan. As the staying away of the Commissioner might rouse suspicions the Resident sailed down the River the same day with a Cambodia prahoe and the Company's staff, numbering 14, pretending to go on a pleasure trip and arrived at 10 p. m. in front of the godown "Amsterdam," where he met the vessels "Princesse Royale" and "Elsenburg" ready to sail.

The following day one of the magistrates of the English vessel "Madrespatnam," which was moored in the mouth, came on board to see the Resident, stating that two Commissioners charged by the King had arrived at the godown "Amsterdam" to learn why we had left our Settlement. The Resident has explained the reasons by letter, requesting the above Englishman to hand this letter to the King's Commissioners.

On 31st October two Commissioners of the King came on board with a flag of peace. One was a brother of Oloang Piesnohan, and the other the Captain of the Japanese, with whom the Company had kept up correspondence for years. They informed the Resident with a dejected expression on their faces that the King had sent them in order to make investigations and to ascertain for what reasons the Company had abandoned their settlement, declaring that His Majesty was at all times inclined to entertain inviolable relations with the Governor General and the Prince in Holland.

The Resident replied that considering the non-arrival of the Commissioner about whom the Governor General had shortly written to the King, he had got suspicious and for safety's sake had preferred going on board, alluding at the same time to the insults and suppressions our people had suffered during the past year from his Majesty's subjects, to the unjust claim of the King, etc.

The commissioners after writing down their reply, went on shore again, after stating that all this had happened without the King's knowledge, at the same time promising to collect Mondas Naen's debt. The Resident is of opinion that the King will send ambassadors to Batavia. The balances left behind in Siam which the Resident could not get on board without arousing suspicions, consist of furniture, ships, utensils and other trifles, wood, besides the luggage of many people residing there. Hardly any wood has been obtainable during the last two years, in consequence of all hands available being pressed into service.

1636.

*26th March.* The vessel "Wapen van Delft" arrives from Japan and Siam with a cargo consisting of Japanese silver, red copper, sapanwood, brown sugar, indigo, oil, planks and only 30 coyan rice and 33 coyan paddy.

Two missives from the merchant Joost Schouten, both dated 4th February and addressed to the "Heeren Generals Brouwer and van Diemen," his daily journal and various enclosures, inform us that to our great astonishment and against former hope and even against the reports to the King, two thirds of the rice crop have failed and hardly one third has come to perfection, so that the price of the rice has risen from 7 to 9 tael and afterwards to 13 tael, and the price of the paddy from 3 to 4 and afterwards to 4½ tael.

On this ground the King absolutely disregarded his promise to grant the export of a large quantity of rice, and he would not give a license for rice export, in spite of the presents and the earnest requests made to him and to his nobles, on the excuse that not only was the last harvest very small and that a fearful famine was to be expected, but that also the next harvest might fail, and therefore he had to take care of his own subjects. Moreover for this reason all the nobles kept their rice at a high price and not for sale.

All other eatables in Siam were also very dear and hard to procure, so there was great distress in the kingdom.

The merchant Joost Schouten had obtained from the King a licence for 50 coyan rice, properly by means of presents to the Queen and to her court ladies. The above mentioned Schouten was of opinion that the Siamese do not like the growing power of the Nether-

lands Co., and are trying to weaken it by retaining their rice. But on the contrary it is very easy, without any danger and with little cost, to force Siam to be reasonable, on account of its situation and its sea trade. For the continuation of the trade with Japan and Taiwan (Formosa) *about 20,000 deer-hides, 4,000 ray-skins, 4,000 picul ordinary sapanwood and 2,000 picul cabessa were in stock at the factory in Siam.* Also 2,200 picul Cambodian nuts and other trifles. The Oya Berkelang of whose indolence especially in the Co.'s matters, *Schouten complained so much*, was thrown into prison with the Secretary Opra Alack on the 18th of December at the King's order, and they were bound with five chains because they had neglected to prepare an answer to the missive, sent by the Atchinese to the Siamese King by Atchinese delegates, but were freed after a few days.

In the beginning of January Oya Piselouck, the richest and mightiest mandarin of the kingdom, and Oya Awangh, president of the royal council, with Oya Jumerat, chief judge, had also been imprisoned with great strictness, and thereafter the house of Oya Piselouck was ransacked by the King's officers, because he had accused, with the authorisation of the other persons, the King's brother of standing for the throne. When, after investigation, this accusation proved to be false, it happened that on the 23rd of January Oya Piselouck was brought in disgrace from his prison with a chain around his neck and was beheaded in two pieces by the executioner at the riverside, where his dead body was exposed during two days. Then, by mediation of the clergy, the King ordered it to be burned at one of the principal temples in the presence of 200 priests and some mandarins. This was done with some ceremony and his ashes were put in a princely tomb. Some news from Ligor had reached Judia, that the Siamese delegates, who went at the end of October to Patany, had arrived safely, had been received kindly

and had arranged affairs in such a way, that apparently peace between the two nations will soon be declared. For that reason the Patanese delegates, with the Siamese can soon be expected here. The King had the intention to honour Schouten on his departure, with 200 picul sapan wood and 25 coyan paddy. Schouten was to start about the middle of March by the yacht Daman, with a missive to the "Heer General."

*27th April.* The chief merchant Joost Schouten arrives at Batavia from Siam with the yacht Daman, bringing with him a cargo value f. 37,007 g. 12, consisting of 10,000 tael Japanese silver, 100 coyan rice, 200 catties aguila wood, 35 bales of meal, a gold chain and 200 picul sappanwood.

The junk Nangasaque had started from the Siamese bar at the same time as the Daman. It had a cargo of 200 picul sapanwood and 15 coyan paddy, amounting to f. 995 besides the 25 coyan paddy, sent in honour by the Siamese King to the Governor General. This junk can be expected at Batavia.

*29th April.* The missive and present from the Siamese King to the Governor General was brought on shore by the delegate from the yacht Daman, and was received in state with a salute of 5 guns and three volleys of musketry.

"Than Oya Sridharmaraj sends this letter by order of the King to the noble, generous, wise, severe Heer Henrick Brouwer Governor General of the State of the United Netherlands in India Orientalis.

"The King our lord has clearly understood Your Hon.'s true affection for continuation and increase of the mutual friendship from the sending of the Capt. Joost Schouten with such a kind letter and with such rare presents to pay reverence to me in the

city of Judia. We have caused your Hon.'s missive to be translated, and Capt. Schouten and the merchant van Vliet have presented it with the gifts with the usual ceremonies to the king. After this His Majesty was glad to be informed about the happy state of Your Hon.'s government and personal disposition, and he wished that this might continue for a long time in the service of the Prince of Holland, to His Majesty's contentment and to Your Hon.'s increasing honour. It pleased His Majesty very much that Your Hon. was kind enough to be willing to assist his Majesty at sea when resuming the war against the rebels of Patany. The king had the intention to do the same, and has ordered being together for that purpose a mighty army with many elephants, horsemen and footmen, with guns and ammunition and also a fleet of well equipped galleys and frigates, to force those of Patany to submission and reverence, which they used since olden times to pay to the crown of Siam. But before this army had started, the King of Lygor has assured his Majesty that the princes and the mandarins of Patany had resolved to open negotiations for peace and to pay due reverence, furthermore to avow their rebellion and to pray His Majesty devotedly to forgive their sin mercifully. For that reason they had sent their delegates, called Siratara radja and Soya radja natsawari with two other noblemen, with letters and presents and with the golden and silver flowers to pay the usual reverence to His Majesty, and these delegates had already arrived at Lygor. On seeing the Patanese humility, the King has mercifully resolved to pardon their crime and has countermanded the proposed campaign, which is also the reason that we did not require Your Hon.'s assistance. His Majesty will never forget Your Honour's assistance of last year with six ships sent to Patany, and although by their late arrival they did not meet with the Siamese army, His Majesty appreciates it is a proof of your Hon.'s loyal friendship.

“ In Your Honour’s missive permission is asked for the export of 1,000 coyan paddy and 600 coyan rice from the King’s country. His Majesty was at first inclined to give a license for this large quantity, but owing to the unseasonable rains and the floods, the crops have been such a failure that only one third of the rice has come to perfection and by this reason the King has even been obliged to stop his campaign against Cambodia and to order, lest there be a famine, that the export of rice from this kingdom be prohibited on penalty of death. In respect of the great and true friendship with the prince of Holland, and as he considers the city of Batavia like one of his own cities, His Majesty has granted permission to Captain Schouten to export 100 coyan rice and 200 coyan paddy. Your Honour is asked to consider, that it was unreasonable to give a license for more ; for the King has to take care in the first place of his own country (where at present the prices are very high).

“ On Your Honour’s request the king has shown this year his favour to Captain Schouten and to the factor van Vliet in that way, that he has granted their just requests. In the same way on your Honour’s recommendation we have assisted them with every thing that was in our power. Finally His Majesty recommends Your Honour highly to preserve and to increase the friendship between him and Your Honour’s prince in that way, that the surrounding princes and nations will be overawed. Your Honour will kindly prove this by the quick sending of the expected missive of the prince of Holland, with which our lord will be greatly pleased.

“ For proving his Majesty’s affection he has ordered to send Your Honour with Captain Schouten 25 coyan paddy and two hundred picul sappanwood and has asked to accept it as a token of his affection.

“ In the city of Judia, the 5th day of third waxing moon in the year of the pig, t.i., 10th February 1636. ”

*13th August.* The vessels “ Leyden ” and “ t’Wapen van Delft ” with the chief merchant Joost Schouten, who is to bring and to present in good form to the King of Siam as a delegate, according to his instructions, the missive and the presents from his royal grace the Sire Prince of Orange, brought here last from the fatherland by the fleet of the Hon. Mauritius van Ormoren, and those of the Governor General. Also he was to do some requests about the Company’s trade, principally concerning the export of rice. The presents of his Royal grace consisted of: a gold imperial crown richly decorated with emeralds and pearls; an imperial sword, inlaid with gold. Those of the Governor General consist of:—

One Persian golden cloth, two Persian velvet clothes, 10 pieces of silks, one seckel of mace, one picul cloves, one picul of nutmegs, one picul of sandalwood, one alcatiff, one mirror with inlaid ebony frame, one piece of red cloth.

In his report of 28th July 1636, received at Batavia on the 26th of November, the merchant Jeremies van Vliet states:

That with exception of the license for the export of rice, as the crops have failed, he has been favoured very much by the king in many things and requests, f.i., with the refusal of the payment of 3600 guilders, which some Siamese wanted according to the rules for Chinese in Siam as the junk Nangasacque, equipped with Netherlanders and Chinese, had come from Tayouan.

To those of Patany His Majesty has granted an armistice on the request of the delegates and the promises of amendment and continuation of the due subjection, provided that the mandarins of Patany



would quickly send the golden and silver flowers to Siam. With this the peace would be settled.

Rumours run, and they are partially proved by preparations, that the King of Siam has the intention to subjugate the kingdom of Cambodia by force, waiting for the result of the crops before commencing hostilities.



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1637.

*30th December 1636.* From the missive of merchant Jeremias van Vliet received on the 30th of December by the "Delft" we learn as follows :

That the King of Siam had given to our people by gentle solicitations without any presents the permission to export 200 coyan rice and 100 do. paddy, and his Majesty was very astonished (as the harvest was abundant during the year) that we did not ask for a larger quantity of rice and paddy. As to this van Vliet remarks that in future by gentle requests we shall not fail to get a larger quantity of rice, that the Siamese are under the wrong impression that Batavia, without taking rice from Siam, could not exist, but that now they understand to the contrary (as we don't trouble ourselves about that and don't ask for big quantities). They see they have been mistaken in their idea of us, so that in future there is no doubt of the export of rice from Siam, and that Batavia in a short time will get good cargoes from there by the King's vessels and other junks. The merchant van Vliet had the intention to load the promised 200 coyan rice and 100 coyan paddy in the vessel Noortwick, after its arrival from Japan, and in the ship Warmont from Tayouan, and to send them hither in a few days.

The cargo received from there by the vessel "Leyden" was unsold up to the present in consequence of little demand, and the provision of Capital, especially of cash, was small, for it was daily wanted to buy deer-hides and other goods on commission for Japan and Tayouan.

This long delay, however, was of some value for the Company with regard to the purchase of the prescribed goods, as everyone was occupied with the cutting and gathering of the crops.

The said van Vliet proposes (when the visits to Siam will be repeated for some years) to make next year a voyage to Batavia by the last ship, after he has settled his affairs, to give a verbal report to the hr. General ende Raden (Governor-General and Council) on the Siamese trade and on the things he had done, and to make radical proposals to improve the trade there. He wished at the same time to get credentials of the newly arrived servants of the Company, and to ask that such a mandate might be given him as would enable him to fulfil his task.

With the vessel Delft came the commissioner Joost Schouton from Siam, who was sent last 13th August from here to present to His Majesty the gold missive together with the excellent gift of his princely grace the Sire Prince of Orange, consisting of a beautiful gold crown and a sword. From the same report and written account submitted to the Governor General and to the Council of India we extract the following:—

That the vessels above mentioned, after much trouble and after many dangers, arrived at last on the 15th of September in the river of Siam and reached Bangkok on the 19th of September with the letters and the gifts. There they stayed owing to the indolence of the Siamese till the 23rd, at which date the letter of the Sire Prince of Orange after Siamese Custom was received in state, and with a suite of 10 prahus and about 400 persons, was brought up to a point one mile below the town of Judia. From there the same was conveyed with pomp on the 26th by 12 prahus and 800 men to the city and brought into the King's palace, where it was opened in presence of the highest mandarins of the kingdom in the great hall. It was translated into Siamese, and as it came written in gold from such a high Prince, it was placed with the gold statues of the Gods and of the ancient kings, an honour showed only to the gold letters of the Kings of China and Pegu.

The said missive of the Prince of Orange and the added gifts of the gold royal crown and of the sword have pleased the King so much that the sword shall be carried before his Majesty in the yearly splendid procession to the principal temple of Judia, and if the crown had been of pyramidal shape and if the sword had been decorated more richly it would have pleased His Majesty still more, and the crown would have been worn by the King in the war or on expeditions.

The missives of the honourable Heer General to the King and to the Oya Berckelagh were brought in state on the 23rd of September to the new compound, and they were literally translated in the hall of a fine temple in the presence of many delegated mandarins. The translation was communicated the next day by the Berkelang to the King and to his council, who were very astonished at the clear advice concerning the rice as they did not expect such outspoken statements, and the delegate Schouten was informed that this letter convinced them of their error. Beyond his expectation, in view of the indolence of the Siamese, the delegate was granted an audience very soon, so that on the 2nd of October the letters and gifts of the Sire Prince of Orange and of the Honourable Heer General were presented, with assistance of the merchant van Vliet, and in the presence of the most powerful mandarins of the kingdom, in due form, in the great royal hall, and were received and accepted by his Majesty with great pleasure and contentment. The translation of the letters was read in public—but what the Honourable Heer General had written concerning the rice and the restitution of the debt from Patani, was omitted with caution,—so as to show the minor mandarins and the common people that their prince was in complete continued friendship with the Netherlands Government. After having finished the reading of the letters and after some

discussion, the king asked the delegate whether he had still to propose to or to beg anything else from his Majesty, stating that he could do so if he wanted through the Berkelang, and his requests would be granted in every reasonable matter. For this his Majesty was thanked and after the presents with due ceremony of betel chewing had been received, and a catty of silver given, they departed from the palace to the compound of the Company.

The next day delegate Schouten was asked, by a sabander, by order of the king, what he had to say or to beg that was not mentioned in the missive of the Heer General,—if his Honour had ordered him to claim this year rice and paddy, and how much we had the intention to claim. Also from which junks those from Patania had taken the 5603½ Rs. and what were the names of the anackodas.

Thereupon the delegate answered, that he had to ask nothing else than that his Majesty would continue his favourable affection towards the Netherlands and show them his continued favour and assistance, that the property taken was to be restored to the Batavian Japanese, and that the Oya Signorativo (!) should be condemned to restore the damage to Jan van Meerwyck, that the King's command on those of Patany to restore the above mentioned 5603½ Rs. might be given, or that otherwise they had to claim it by hostile ways. Also that the Honourable Heer General was not satisfied with the poor supply last year of 100 coyan rice and 200 coyan paddy, after his Majesty's promise to our people of 400 coyans rice and 400 coyans paddy, that therefore we were compelled to provide ourselves from other quarters and that in future the Siamese could keep their rice and paddy. All these reasons were written down by the sabander, read by the Berkelang and submitted to the King, who was very astonished at them, and who observed very well that he had been deceived in his erroneous



idea, that Batavia could not do without the Siamese rice. About the restitution of the Japanese taxed property and about the claim of the Meerwyck on the Oya Singorat (!) the delegate has obtained nothing. About the pretended 5603 $\frac{1}{4}$  Rs. from those of Patany, he received no other answer, than that His Majesty had not sufficient reasons to order the Patanese the restitution wanted, as the anackodas of the captured junks (according to the words of the Berkelang) had said that they were not in possession of Batavian goods. With this impudent and simple lie this lawful matter was excused and refused. Thereupon the delegate Schouten by order of the Heer General wrote a missive in the Malay language from Siam to Datu Bandara, first mandarin of Patany, which runs as follows :

“ Missive of Joost Schouten, delegate of the serene Prince of Holland and of the Honourable Heer Governor General of India, to His Royal Majesty of Siam, addressed to Datu Bandara, first mandarin of Patany.

“ Six years ago, when Patany revolted from Siam Siamese junks from Batavia were returning to India and arriving at Patany they were seized by order of the Queen. The Chinese citizens of Batavia had put goods of a value of 5,603 $\frac{1}{4}$  Rs. on board as detailed in the subjoined memorandum. These goods were taken from them as well as the Siamese goods by the Dato Besaar, in defiance of the duty of friendship, for which reason the Heer Governor General wrote the next year from Batavia to Dato Bandara asking him for a fair restitution, but this has been refused without a reply. About this matter the Heer General sent the next year commander Anthony Caen to Patany with such letter as is known by your honour and by the other regents, upon which, however, no peace with Siam or restitution of the damage committed followed. That was the reason that the Hon. General assisted the King of Siam against Patany.

“ Since then Patany has conciliated the King of Siam by the customary reverence, which was communicated by His Majesty to the Honourable Heer General in Batavia, who thereupon asked for the restitution of the stolen property. We trust that justice will be done so that Batavia and Patania can be united as before.

“ When, however, the Queen and the mandarins of Patany will put off the restitution from day to day or, with stupid reasons, excuse themselves, then its people is warned by order of the Heer General, that notwithstanding that Patany is at peace with Siam, the war with the Hollanders will go on, so that the junks sailing for Siam and elsewhere will be seized in a hostile way, as is written by the Heer General to His Majesty of Siam. But if the Queen and the mandarins will decide to restore the 5603½ Rs., the Heer General will give peace to that people, when they send a delegation to Batavia, and the trade of the Company with Patany will be renewed. Finally your Honour and the other Governors of Patany are advised to do in this important matter, what is necessary for the contentment of the King of Siam and for the safety of Patany and its inhabitants. Done in the Royal capital Judia in the year of the Rat the 4th of the month Oij (!). Signed Joost Schouten.” What the answer on the missive about the restitution claimed will be, time will tell. After that the delegate Schouten begged His Majesty urgently to grant him leave from Siam, but owing to the indolence of the Berkelang, the superstitious worship and the continual water-feasts of the King, it was not granted untill 23rd November, when the King asked him if the vessel for starting was ready, if his business in Siam had been brought to a happy conclusion, etc. Thereupon the delegate replied that he had been tolerably successful in his business and that he was ready to start.

The King said furthermore that he had received the golden letter and the gift of the Prince of Orange with great pleasure, and that he intended to send with him as a proof of friendship also such a letter and gift to His Excellency. Also that the letter and gift of the Honourable Heer General had given him great pleasure and in reply thereto he would cause a letter to be written and same to be sent with a gift to Batavia, etc. After this speech the delegate was awarded a gold garland, the value of which was about 50 Rs., and a Siamese gown and his leave was granted. On the 28th of November the missive of the King and the gifts for the Prince of Orange and for the Honourable Heer General were handed to the delegate and were brought on board the vessel "t Wapen van Delft" by two delegated mandarins with great pomp by means of one rowing frigate and three proas, and were accepted with respectful ceremonies. Thereupon the delegate started from the river of Siam on the 4th of December after having handed instructions to advance the interests of the Company to the merchant van Vliet (according to his orders) The gift of the King to His Princely Excellency consists of a Siamese Royal crown, decorated with red and green stones, and 10 pieces silk stuffs were sent by the King's brother to his Honour.

At the end of December the above mentioned missive and the gift of the King of Siam for his Grace the Prince of Orange and for the Honourable Heer General were brought by the delegate from the vessel "t Wapen van Delft" into the castle, and landed with salutes from the guns and three volleys of musketry. The missive runs as follows :—

Translation of the missive to the Prince of Orange :—"Golden written evidence of the alliance full of divine radiance, the most excellent things, all wise sciences included, the happiest one existing with the human beings in the world, the best and the strongest

bond ever formed in heaven, on earth or in hell, the sweetest and kindest royal words, which by virtue of known capacities and glorious fame runs through the earth by divine power as if the dead rose and wondrously were freed from all spiritual and corporal corruptions, wherein the reigning trading and serving people were astonished with a strange gladness, so this is without any comparison with any dignity as it comes with a glad heart and loving friendship and divine, graceful, unconquerable golden crown decorated with many pure stones from the greatest and purest divine lord of the everlasting souls, the holiest all shading ruler of the greatest and noblest kingdom of Siam, a radiance of the fine big city Judia which has its many folds, streets and gates filled with people, and the greatest capital of the world which adorns the earthly royal throne with nine sorts of stones and which is the most agreeable country the owner of which is more than the gods and his house is of gold and precious stones, the divine lord of golden thrones of the white and red elephants and of those with a long tail, which three sorts are the specimen of travelling animals given by the supreme lord of the nine gods to none else than to the divine lord in whose land is the most victorious sword, a fiery arm of the god of war.

“To the illustrious, puissant, victorious Prince Frederick Heyndrick by the Grace of God Prince of Orange, count of Nassoun, Catsenellebooghen, Vyandon, Diets, Linghen, Meurs, Bueren, Leerdam, Marquis of Veer, and Vlissinghen, Sire and baron of Breeda of the city Grave and of the country of Cuyck, Diest, Granbergha, Horstal, Cranendenck, Warnoston, Arley, Noserayst, wt Daesburgh, Poolannen, Willemstadt, Nieuwevaert, Iselsteyn, St. Kaertensdyck, Geertrydenbergh, Chasteau Reguardt de Hooghe ende lage Swaluwe, Naeltwyck and hereditary viscount of Antwerp and Besancon, hereditary marshall of Hollant, Governor of Gelderlandt, Hollandt, Zeeland and

Westvrieslandt, Zutphen, Utrecht and Overysel and Captain General and Admiral of the united Netherland Provinces. Your Excellency's eminent golden missive and royal gift have been presented to us by your Excellency's delegate with pleasure, and we learned with satisfaction that the person of Your Excellency with his lands and subjects, through God's protection, enjoys good and happy welfare ; with which news we were as delighted as if the high God had given the whole world for ourself alone.

“ It is true that our states and Your Excellency's dominions are separated by a long distance, but through the old firm friendship they are united to a gold mass, so that we consider as our duty to fight against his enemies with our force of elephants, horses and soldiers, if Your Excellency wish, and to assist him also on water with our galleys, proas and military till the enemies are annihilated, trusting that if our kingdom wants help at any time, Your Excellency will also assist us with his forces and ships because our mutual great friendship requires such assistance.

“The Hollanders, Your Excellency's subjects, negotiating in our states, are favoured by us, and treated with more care than our own vassals.

“ While our friendship is so great and excellent that it is confirmed with the sending of golden letters, the hearty affection, cannot be declared clearly. The Kings of China and Judia used to send each other in the old times their golden letters to cement their friendship, but as the King of China could not explain his heart's meaning ( for want of experienced interpreters ) he has sent four learned men to Siam as permanent servants for the Siamese Crown. Since then the letters are well and thoroughly translated which is the strongest preservation of such a durable friend-

ship that the strong friendship of us and our successors may increase and may last as long as the sun will shine and the moon will give light, so Your Excellency has to consider and to order, how that can be done in the best way.

“From our royal city Judia in the year of the rat, the 9th day of the 12th full moon, that is 21st November 1639.”

Translation of the missive written by order of the King of Siam by the Oya Berckelagh to the Honourable Heer Governor General:—

“The Oya or Duke, radiant of sincerity, noble of race, one of the highest vassals of the great King, wise in forethought, illustrious and of royal birth in which no one equals him, mighty ruler of the King’s treasures and foreign affairs has sent this letter with a pure heart and friendly affection by order of the divine, illustrious, unconquerable, mightiest, highest sovereign of hundred one crown, the highest, purest and holiest of the immortals,

“To the noble, generous, wise, severe heer Anthoni van Diemen, Governor General of the possessions of the united Netherlands in India Orientalis, as Your Honour is devoted to the royal Majesty with a pure heart and with devotion.

“With the delegate Joost Schouten the golden missive and the gift of the prince of Holland arrived here in India likewise Your Honour’s missive and gifts, also the letter addressed to me, the contents of which were announced and reported to my King. The delegate was soon granted an honourable audience with his Majesty, and the letters and the gifts of the prince and of Your Honour were silently offered by him. His Majesty was pleased very much that Your Honour sent him with devoted affection the letter and the gifts of the Prince, a thing

which will be of much profit for the Hollanders visiting and negotiating in the kingdom of Judia.

“From the missive of Your Honour our King learnt with great pleasure the affection of Your Honour for his and my ancestors and the old friendship, honour and service for his Majesty. And notwithstanding that there has been no opportunity to prove the willingness completely to his Majesty, yet it was appreciated as if Your Honour’s willingness and affection had been proved completely, and his Majesty has therefore a great affection for Your Honour.

“On the recommendation of Your Honour I have shown to captain Schouten as much favour and help as was required of my office and as was reasonable and in my power.

“In Your Honour’s letter was mentioned that some inhabitants of Batavia have sent hither some merchandise with two Siamese junks, which were captured by these of Patany, but the anachoda called Napit Ockun syey Sacon (!) declares himself ignorant of the fact that their junks returned with Batavian property. Therefore there is no reason why the Patanese should be ordered to restore. When Your Honour will send thither the owners, and when they can make good their claims, then the restitution will be ordered to those of Patany. Your Honour writes that in case of refusal and in default of restitution the hostilities against the Patanese will recommence at sea, a thing which is really not reasonable, and it is no firm friendship between the Kings of Siam and Holland and contrary to the pure affection of Your Honour towards his Majesty. On the contrary Your Honour’s good fame will increase with the neighbouring princes and nations when your Honour will prevent hostile ways. This is to be kept in consideration, and a lawful procedure is advised to Your Honour.

“ At the request of the captain Schouten, his Majesty has licensed the purchase and export of 200 coyan rice and 100 of paddy.

“ The King sends to the Prince of Holland a golden triple royal crown set with red and blue precious stones and with cat's eyes in double rows of red and white stones.

“ To Your Honour His Majesty presents a gold crown set with the same sort of ornament and rubies, and 50 Siamese coyan paddy.

“ In the royal capital Judia, the first day of the waxing moon in the year of the rat, which is 28th November 1636.”

*10th February, 1637.* The junk which was sent in May 1635 by the Prince of Siam, with the anachoda called Ok Khun Si Bhakdi as Siamese Ambassador to Japan, and which returned to Taiwan without having attained its end, was wrecked on the 11th of January after a strong gale near the river of Mattauw with her entire cargo of porcelain, silk stuffs, lacquer, etc., bought in Tayowan for 3,376½ Rs. The vessel was dashed to pieces, and nothing could be saved. The anochoda with 14 Siamese and 11 Chinese were drowned. The brother of the said anachoda and another Siamese who had stayed on shore the former day and had saved their lives in this way, asked for passage with our vessels to Siam. After this misfortune the Siamese will probably lose their fancy for trading with Japan, which will be favourable for the Company, as otherwise we can expect nothing but damage and distress from those things.

*19th April 1637.* Arrived from Siam the Company's junk “ Batavia ” with cargo and with two missives of the merchant Jeremias van Vliet, one bearing the date of 18th February, a copy of the missive written on the yacht Iudia, and the other bearing



the date 2nd March, also the day book of the ship "Wapen van Delft," mentioning what had happened there on the 4th of December, namely :

Through the non-appearance of some vessels from Taywan, and as there was but little chance, that they would come, because the monsoon had changed, the merchant Jeremias van Vliet and the council found it fit to ask for one of the King's frigates, named India, to send us the commercial books and the necessary advices in time, which vessel was got by the Oya Berkelangh with a big present, and has been sent hither on the 18th of February with an equipment of 40 Netherlanders and 3 Japanese and with 50 picol sapanwood, value F: 1,125.

To get a proper knowledge of the Siamese indigo a piece of low land behind the Company's factory had been sown with indigo and also a piece of high land was to be sown, for examining the attitude of the plants in growing, cutting and in the making of indigo. In the opinion of second merchant Claes Kerwer, not only is Siamese wet indigo able to be refined, but it can also be prepared for sending in dry condition in boxes. So much time is wanted for drying and purifying, and it is not easy to teach the Siamese, therefore they go on in their old way of making wet indigo. In future we can expect with certainty a proof of that matter.

Notwithstanding that there has been a good rice crop this year, the merchant van Vliet could only get the promised 200 coyan rice with great difficulty on the departure of the mentioned junk and if this junk had not had shiproom for cargo, it could have been received by the latter. It seems that this Siamese king has always imagined that we could not exist without his rice, and that we should be obliged to beg with great presents (which the avaricious usurper wants) for his licence, but being deceived in his idea

by our non-importuning and on seeing that we do not fall in with his view, he tries to make us dance to his piping, which was sufficiently apparent from a certain cruelty and an unprecedented action lately committed against our people.

The second merchant Reynier van Tzum with seven assistants and with the barber and the butler, altogether ten men, on the 10th of December, after old custom and after having obtained the permission of the merchant van Vliet, went out for a trip on the river in a proa. They arrived at a temple situated on the opposite side of the river near the prince's garden named Boeurettiet,\* and when, on landing there, they sat down to amuse themselves, they were ordered by the priests to leave that place or they would be forced to do so. It seems that this temple is visited from time to time by the king for its renowned holiness. They retired after some words with the priests and sat down further on in the shadow of the trees till the beginning of the evening. Then the assistants Joost Lourensen and Daniel Jacobsen going on foot along by the river, had a quarrel with some of the prince's slaves, in which Daniel Jacobsen was arrested by them and brought to the Prince's garden house. The second merchant and the assistants who came down the river, and who became aware of the incident by the crying of some women, went together to the Prince's court to prevent further trouble and to try to get Daniel kindly, and with a small gift, from the hands of the Siamese. On arriving there, without their having had time to say a word, stones were thrown at them immediately from within with such violence that some were injured and they all had to retreat and run to the proa. On seeing this the Siamese pursued our people immediately and attacked them furiously with stones, cut-

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\* บุรพทิศ

lasses, small pikes, parranghs and other weapons, and treated them so murderously that they acted more as monsters than human beings.

This not being enough they were taken prisoners and were brought to the Prince, bound hand and foot and ill treated, and afterwards to the Berkelangh. There they were interrogated at night, and the next day early in the morning they were brought to the palace on the false charge of the Prince, that they had assailed his court by violence, with muskets and other arms. There the second merchant and the assistant Isack Keerdyck were interrogated and immediately after the examination, without getting a chance to defend themselves, all of them, in accordance with the King's horribly frivolous, murderous sentence of death, were bound hand and foot with ropes and chains, and were exposed to the public gaze fastened to a stake to be trampled to death by the elephants by the order of the tyrant.

The merchant van Vliet, being informed of this horrible and tyrannical sentence and the wicked intention of the King, persuaded him, after many solicitations, with aid of the Berkelangh and of other friends, in so far that, after having been exposed so disdainfully from morning till night with their severe wounds unbandaged, and after having nearly been killed by the heat of the sun, the party were granted their lives and were released with exception of Joost Louwerens and Daniel Jacobsen. These two were to be executed because they were supposed to have provoked the incident, notwithstanding that they had been proved to be not guilty. But this was done to get by this way more presents, as was the King's insatiable and selfish intention. At last their lives also were granted through the extraordinary requests and the following gifts, and they were set free after sixteen days of imprisonment.

The gifts to the King consisted of

12 ells of superfine red cloth at $12\frac{1}{4}$ guilders	147.—
1 pair of Persian gold cloth ... ..	153.—
2 „ „ little gold chains ... ..	102.—
2 „ „ caruants ? with stones ... ..	100.—
	<hr/>
f.	502.—

To the Prince, the King's brother

4 yds. of superfine red cloth	
@ $12\frac{1}{4}$ guilders the yd. ... ..	49.—

To the Oya Berckelagh

10 yds. of red cloth @ $6\frac{3}{4}$ guilders the yd. ...	67.10
4 pack of cassa bengala (firework)	
@ 3 tael each ... ..	72.—
4 pack of calimcarys @ $1\frac{3}{4}$ tael each ...	66 —
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	205.—

To Oloangh Thip Sombat, chamberlain

3 pack of cassa bengala @ $3\frac{1}{2}$ tael ...	63.—
3 „ „ calimcarys @ 3 tael ... ..	54.—
	<hr/>
	117.—

To Oloangh Tsuit sabander

6 yards of red cloth @ $6\frac{3}{4}$ g. ... ..	40.10
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Total	f. 914.—

As the Siamese King was not yet satisfied with this he forced the merchant van Vliet, by putting still more restraint on the liberties allowed up to the present and on our extensive trade, to sign the under-mentioned act. This was done doubtless in order to attack us more severely on trespass of it, and under pretext of violation of his orders getting still larger presents or taking possession of the Company's properties.

Copy of the act which was extorted by force from merchant van Vliet by the Siamese King and which he has to sign and to obey.

On the 5th day of the waxing moon, named duen ji in the year of the rat, Oya Berckelagh has exacted from me, Jeremias van Vliet (chief of the Company's factory in Siam) by the sabander Olang Tsuijt Rajj-montri this writing, in which I promise that every thing, which will be ordered or commanded, from this day forward, by order of the Berckelagh to me or the Hollanders residing in Siam, by the sabander or interpreter, will be obeyed as exactly as is in our power according to the laws and to the customs of the Kingdom, and that I (being the chief) will be kept responsible for the trespasses wherefore I pledge my own person.

In India on the factory Siam, September 1636.

Besides, this King has also ordered that every arriving vessel in going up the river will stop at Bangkok and will inform the officials from where they come and will stay till the Berckelagh has been informed of the arrival. He will acquaint the King with it and then will send a permit. But that is really intolerable and will cause delay in the speedy sending of the Company's ships to Taiwan and to Japan. The opinion of the Berckelagh is that it will not last for a long time and that with a small gratuity all will be arranged as in former times. In short these are all disadvantageous practices and put the Company to great expense and trouble.

One can easily discover from such cruel, barbarous and unprecedented actions how this usurper King cares for our friendship. It is evident that we have already paid too much attention to him and that we begged already too eagerly for rice. On occasion there must follow such a punishment on this, that it will be a warning for the other peoples of the East.

By the Governor Carel Reijniersen at Paliacatte 50 pagodas cash were advanced to Opra Mantri, ambassador of the King of Siam, on his request

which he promised to return to our ambassador in Siam. The latter therefore on his arrival asked him for it, but instead of returning the money he said that it was given to him as a present by the Governor, and that he did not owe any money to us at all. So you see that these fickle Moors are not to be trusted at all, and that in the future we must not enter into accommodations like that.

*6th May 1637.* The Governor General mentions as follows :—

That his Honour understood the troubles between the Siamese King and the delegate Schouten in taking his leave, and felt sorry that, while we try to let those of Siam understand that we do not want their rice, everything has been so shamefully misarranged, and that he wants to be clearer and better informed by the merchant van Vliet of many questions.

That he praised, that we had informed our “Heeren” principals by the vessel Enckhuijsen that his Honour will take the trouble to ask the Sire, Prince of Orange, to answer the letters and the gifts, which his Princely Grace was going to receive on the safe arrival of the Enckhuijsen. His Honour was of the opinion that we had acted well, in dismissing Schouten (at his request) and that he would be more useful for the Company with a better knowledge, when returning from the Netherlands and having forgotten the Siamese splendours. Also that we had acted very well in getting large quantities of rice from Coromandel and from elsewhere (which can also be bought in Japan) and thus to let Siam keep its rice for one or two years. Then without doubt things will go on otherwise, provided that there will be no lack of the capacities of our servants (as before). That we had done right with the 30 coyan paddy, presented by His Majesty of Siam to his Honour ; we also had to credit the Company for

the gold crown and silk goods presented by the King together with the paddy, crediting him with the value without waiting for his return.

1640-1641.

*21st November.* The vessel Berckhout arrives from Siam with a cargo consisting of timber, sappangh, gomme lacca, etc., value f. 31,287.16 and with the report of the chief merchant Jeremias van Vliet dated 19th October about the happenings and the state of the Company there. The vessels Witten Oliphant (White Elephant), Gracht, Berckhout and Sayer had arrived there respectively on the 7th and 12th of June, on the 26th of September and on the 18th of October.

Accidentally there had been difficulties with the provision of Japanese and Taywanese cargos, but at last things turned out fairly well, so that the Witten Oliphant and the Gracht sailed on the 4th of July in the best season, the Witten Oliphant with a cargo of F: 114,271 for Japan, and the Gracht with F: 7,756 for Taywan.

In the month of October the waters at the towns up the river, Ponceleuck, and Caphein, had risen so quickly that many deer were drowned in swimming across the river and were devoured by crocodiles and tigers. And after the fall of the waters there was such a mortality among the beasts, that the peasants could not approach for stripping the skins because of the horrible stench. A junk was equipped on account of the King of Siam and sent to Japan. Although the Japanese didn't buy one deerskin, quantities were taken away by the factory servants, together with the anachoda; the officers and the sailors and rumours of transactions did more harm than the buying, as the price was immediately raised.

In the third place the Japanese there residing sent two ships with about 8,000 deerskins to Contchin-

china ; moreover a certain anachoda, who arrived last February from Chincheeu, had put so many obstacles to the skin-trade, that it seemed rather spoiled for the Company. The Chinamen had proceeded buying irrespective of quality or price as if they had the intention of dragging away everything that they could get hold of. In the beginning Mr. van Vliet tried to get things by raising the price, but in vain, for the Chinamen were led astray with what the sellers wished to give, as they had no proper knowledge of skins and this was the reason why our raise of price failed. When our people would have raised their offer by one tael the hundred, then the Chinamen would still have had the run. Mr. van Vliet on understanding this played them a trick : he showed the Chinese sabander a seal of the Berckelagh of the year 1633 in which was granted that the Company's servant had the monopoly of the deerskins export and notwithstanding that this letter had become obsolete and powerless, it was accepted by the sabander and the anochoda, so that he came to an agreement with the others. The anachoda could keep the fifteen thousand skins that had already been bought, but he was not allowed to continue his purchase ; but the anchoda who had been a leading pirate did not keep his word and bought in secret still more than 15,000 skins.

The Japanese Quosaemon and Gumbe, who used to collect the skins for the Company, proved also to be unreliable, for they bought every day many skins with the money that they had in trust for the Company and brought them to the Chinese anachoda, notwithstanding the protests of van Vliet, who was obliged to take the money from their hands and to send them away.

Moreover it happened that the king had caused many inhabitants of Poucelouc, Capheyn and other towns up-county (and also many country men) to be ordered to cut down big quantities of trees and to cut them into square timbers by which not only the hunt-



ing of deer had been suspended, but also many people sent by van Vliet with the Company's money for collecting deer skins could not fulfil their contracts. The Company had failed in many respects in that way and at the last harvest the Company could not collect many skins either and the Company had to buy skins for a high price. But as at the departure of the Yacht Waterloose Verve a big quantity was still in stock and as dearth had been lightened by the last purchased, skins could be sent to Japan at the price of the year before.

They fear that the Chinchoo Chinamen will go on sending big quantities of deer skins to Japan, by which the skin trade will be burdened very much and the Company will be deprived of profits, for though we could resort to our absolute rights ( it is to be feared that this is impossible in future ) it must be considered that such proceedings may lead to dissatisfaction in China and ruin our rising trade, as we wrote already to the Governor of Formosa.

To the collecting of the rayskins great damage has been done by the sending of the King's junks to Japan. From the anachoda and from the Japanese residing there a large quantity, however, had been collected at a reasonable price, so that the Company can expect good profits of the rayskins, if they are still wanted in Japan.

From the King's factories and also in secret from private persons a large quantity of tin had been bought and also agilla wood, and notwithstanding that in Japan only 10 picul are wanted, 22 picul were sent for enlarging the stock there.

Enough black wax could be bought for satisfying largely the demand of Japan. As to the Capital and as to saving it properly, it would have been better if smaller quantities had been bought, but it was absolutely impossible to act otherwise, for if we had

not bought it, it would have been bought by the Chinese or the Japanese.

Also a quantity of 251 picul of black cane-sugar had been bought at a reasonable price and sent to Japan, but of Cambodian nuts we could not get so many as was expected, as the King's merchants had bought everything and sent to Japan with his junks. But we were of the opinion that neither the president Caron nor the Japanese merchants stood in real need of that merchandise. We could also not satisfy the Japanese demand for buffalo horns.

They thought that the bad rhinoceros horns would be accepted in Japan willingly and sold with much profit; they are generally used for medical purposes. 41 horns, weight 34 catty, had been bought and sent by the Oliphant to Japan.

The birds nests had also been eagerly bought by the merchants and sent to Canton for account of the King, so that even the Chinese anachoda could not get one. Lead was also expensive and difficult to get.

The bill on the cargo of silver has given great trouble. Oya Sicalat, merchant and in charge of the King's mint, would give for each catty weight one tical or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  guilder less than the fixed price. Also he had selected the money in such way that every catty would weigh about 3 maes heavier than its proper weight, so that  $2\frac{1}{2}\%$  would have been lost. They asked in many ways to change it in the same way as formerly, but in vain, for Sicalat had brought such a fear among the people that nobody dared to ask for the silver; and at last they were obliged to make their complaints through Oloang Sabartiban to the King and to beg that henceforth we should have to do with Opra Rachiat or Opra Rabisit as in former times, and that we should be free from Sicalat. The King seemed to have been in good humour at that time, for he ordered immediately that Opra Rabisit had to change the silver at the fixed price and for

current money and that Sicalat should not occupy himself any longer with it.

Notwithstanding that the silver had been changed in the old way and weighed properly, so much profit as formerly could not be made, for the King ordered to search after all the old coins which had been minted too light by fraud of the assayers and to coin new ones, so that every catty new money weighs about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  maes heavier than the old one. That makes a difference of about 2 tayl on every box of 100 tayl Japanese money. Formerly the profit of every 1000 tayl was between 86 and 90 guilders; now it was only about 70 guilders.

At the arrival of the merchant Reynier van 't Zum the sabander Opra Rajmontry had been many times at the factory by order of the Berckelagh in the name of the King to enquire about many things. For instance: if they had received news from the King of Holland and when he would send an answer. On which our people replied that the King of Holland was occupied by the war in such a way that notwithstanding that he would have liked very much to answer the missive, it had been impossible, but that as soon as there would arrive a letter at Batavia the Hon. Heer Governor General would immediately send it hither.

Till the departure of the Witten Oliphant we had traded fully at liberty and had been highly respected by the King and by the high officials, but the inconstancy of the Government has put a spoke in our wheel; for in the beginning of June the Oya Berckelagh had been dismissed from his post and had been made Oya Capheyn, which was a great loss for us. He had been very indolent in his office but sincere in mind, kind hearted and affected to the Company. The Oya Calahom (who was Berckelagh three years ago when our people fell into the hands

of the King) was appointed Berckelagh in his place. The latter was very favourable and helpful to us as well at that time as afterwards. But he was a great friend of the Portuguese, who now had free admittance to him and, as they don't scruple to say everything, they had made us so odious by means of boasting and the telling of shameful lies that the Berckelagh (who used to call van Vliet son or friend) turned his affection from us and threatened to take our lives and our possessions.

The missive of the Governor General to the King had been at last, on the change of the Berckelagh, translated word by word, on the 16th of June, at the offices of the Berckelagh, in presence of the Siamese delegates and of the chief merchants van der Mandere, de Wilt and van't Sum, and the next day it was submitted to the King. He was very pleased with it and he ordered the Berckelagh to inform us that we should not lose through the Radjah Ebrahim. But the jealousy of the Oloangh Sabartiban altered his intention, for the Berckelagh told us after a few days that the king had arrived at another conclusion and had not the intention to pay more than the amount which would be found in the books of Radjah Ebrahim. Hereupon Mr. van Vliet, van der Mandere, de Wilt and van't Sum went to the Berckelagh displeased and astonished at the unexpected change imagining politely, that the refusal of payment would necessarily lead to the detracting of the King's loyal name, as it had already become known that his Majesty had promised to pay the whole amount. They asked if that now was to be changed without any cause, and said that His Majesty ought to pay more attention to his Royal name than to the wrong advice of Oloangh Sabartiban, etc. But it was all in vain, for the Berckelagh replied that he had had twice audience of the King about the matter and had obtained nothing. The only result had been that the King got angry, and he said that he would not bother the King any longer

with it, principally as in that way he would become suspect by Oloangh Sabartiban of acting against the King's service for sake of private gain. But van Vliet was of the opinion that neither their request nor the writing of the Governor General had ever been presented in the right way to the King.

On the 12th of July our people were called to court to present the letter and the gifts of the Governor General. But they had thought that it would be better not to part with the gifts before they had received the assurance that their claim to the possessions of Radjah Ebrahim was known to the King, and what the opinion and the intentions of the King concerning this matter were. According to Siamese custom they pleaded sickness of Mr. van Vliet in excuse of not appearing on that day before the King. After that they urged upon the sabānder Opra Rajmontrij that they couldn't believe that the claim ever had been put before the King, and said politely that if the King persisted in his denial of our fair claim, it would make a disagreeable impression on the Honourable Heer Governor General and it would lead to an estrangement of the friendship. Therefore he was asked to consider everything together with the Berckelangh, that his Honour might be satisfied and troubles might be prevented.

But the fickle sabānder (who had long opposed, in vain, the liberties of the Company) thought that the right time had come to do harm to the Company, and to diminish the respect in which it was held, by the diversion of the King's favour from us. He invented without our knowledge a false and bitter story, that we refused obstinately to appear before the King and to deliver the presents of the Governor General, before he would satisfy the whole debt, and that, on refusal, we said a letter would be written immediately to Batavia and that we would come with naval power to get our payment from the King's treasures, etc. This

written story was given by Opra to Berckelagh praying him to read it in our names to the King. The Berckelagh, who, from affection to the Portuguese, preferred rather to see our ruin than our welfare in that kingdom, showed this letter without our knowledge to the King on the occasion that we had to appear at the audience and to present the gifts.

The king, who was intoxicated, was roused by it into such an anger that he resolved at once without investigation or trial to play a cruel tragedy with us, But he was calmed down a bit by the Oyas Poucelouc, Siori and Sourckelouck, so that at last Berckelagh was ordered to announce to our people that they had to leave his country at once, that he would kill every man who was still in his country on the next day, and that he would give the factory with its contents over for plunder. At this order the town was in action at once, the King's people came under arms, the guns were transported to the rampart next to the Netherlands factory, and the elephants and the horses were brought forward, as if they were to fight against a powerful enemy. Hereupon Mr. van Vliet (without knowing what was the matter) was called by the Berckelagh. It was his good fortune that he excused himself, for if he had appeared at this first summoning, he would have been thrown before a raving elephant and all our people would have been slain, for the King's sentence would have been carried out. But by a strange accident the Almighty has saved their lives and the Company's properties, for Mr. van Vliet had just been called that day by Tayoman, one of the Japanese chiefs, to the Japanese quarter for assisting him to settle a question and had been conducted to his house. The King on being informed of this had his doubts (as is said), and thought that our people had been informed of his cruel resolution and had conspired with the Japanese. Being afraid and through the good advices of the Oyas Poucelouc, Sicri and Sourckelouc,

of his mother and of a certain Brahman priest, his anger was calmed gradually, and he sent an order to Berckelagh not to carry out his sentence but to summon our people again, and if van Vliet was really indisposed to call van't Sum and Moerdyck and to give them notice of the following points. Hereupon the Opras Choduck and Rajmontry appeared in the factory to inquire after the indisposition of Mr. van Vliet and on finding the latter too feeble to appear before the Berckelagh, the merchants van't Sum and Moerdyck had to go with them and were, as also Mr. van Vliet on the next day, bitterly addressed by the Berckelagh, and the following four points were put before them.

1/ That, notwithstanding that they had lived in Siam for a long time, it couldn't be concluded otherwise, from their doings, than that they were ignorant of the dignity of that nation. That they must not fancy to be in their own country, but in the country of a powerful King. That they were under the protection of His Majesty. That he would not endure our nagging.

2/ That they had to consider that Batavia was not so far away but the King's Soldiers and vessels could find and take it, thinking our nation so small that if four Hollanders were fighting in duel against the lowest Siamese slave they would not slay him.

3/ That the Company's factory was so small that the Berckelagh could carry it away with his slaves in one hour, for if he sends his people and each of them would take one stone there would not be stones enough for them all.

4/ That the Siamese Kingdom was extensive, famous and ancient long before the Hollanders existed and would remain so till there would be no Hollanders any more. That if our people thought they were wronged in any way, or if they were tired of the

country, they could go away; and that they would please the King by so doing.

Those four points were explained to them by the Berckelagh by order of the King, and on his own account he added many threats and villanies and asked for their answer to report it to His Majesty (who had his spies present for noticing the impression it would make on our people), giving himself the appearance, as if he had invented it himself and therefore it had to be accepted and appreciated as a faithful warning.

Our people were of the opinion that they had not to give an answer to the said points, asking only to be treated in the usual way. They added that they wanted to know their accusers and to be heard against them, but they were in some way forced to answer, so that at last they answered as follows.

That they knew very well that they were in the country of the Siamese King and under His Majesty's protection, and that their doings had always been of such a nature that up to the present no true complaint could be lodged against them, but that on the contrary they had always tried to prevent and to remove troubles.

The way to Batavia was open to everyone; if it pleased the King to send his soldiers hither he was at liberty to do so. They thought the town not stronger than it really was, but there the Governor General had such a power at his disposal that with the aid of God all the enemies had been kept in bounds and the Company's properties had been protected against them up to the present. But if comparison was made between four Hollanders and one Siamese slave, they had to keep silent, because they esteemed their Netherlanders too highly, and because they were sent as merchants not as soldiers.

If the Company's factory was in the way of the King, he could carry it off they would have to suffer



it, but the Berckelagh's slaves were not able to demolish such a building in one hour.

And if the King wished them to go away, then they would start by the first opportunity. The Company's trade would continue nevertheless, being able to get the Siamese goods at other places.

And if their speech had not been stopped they would have showed the Siamese how brave they were in matters of war, especially when they had to punish the rebellious Patanese, and that it would be better if the King used first his power against Cambodia and would leave Batavia in peace. But their mouth was stopped.

After having been exposed to disdain, the King ordered that under pain of death it was forbidden to enter the Company's factory or to negotiate with the Netherlanders, and especially not to sell them timber, or to serve them as workmen or as ferry-boatmen. The Berckelagh was ordered to pay great attention to the doings of the Hollanders, and the orders contained dirty insults intended to bring disdain upon our nation, which our interpreters had omitted translating for shame. Our people tried to excuse themselves and proved that the sabander opra Rajmontri was the only cause of these troubles, which had such a good effect that (without this favour having been asked) it was allowed again to use workmen and ferry-boatmen. But proof of their innocence has never reached the king, and Opra Rajmontri has not been punished.

As could be understood from Sediamet and from other indications *this sentence* has been given only as the result of Berckelagh's bitter presentations and the King still showed us his good will; for a short time later they asked Berckelagh, by advice of Sediamet, if he could procure for them an audience of the King to present the gifts, as this would prove that they had been accepted in the King's

favour again. But the request was in vain, for the Berckelagh was so disagreeable and bitter that he postponed and refused every time, without reason, only to belittle us, till at last our people spoke with Sedianet, and Oloang Sabartiban (informed by Sedianet) took the matter in hand, and the King would have granted them an audience on the 2nd of September together with the delegates of Johore, if Berckelagh had not prevented it again and deceived the King with lies that we obstinately had refused to ask for an audience.

The good affection of Oloang Sabartiban raised such an anger and jealousy in Berckelagh that it appeared he had the intention to belittle us still more, in order that we might be dependent on him only, and that we might not be able to get help or advice from any body else. But our people were not so pusillanimous, and did not care for an audience, but resolved to wait for the arrival of a vessel and then to ask for the return of the letter handsomely at that occasion and to send it back and to complain of the disdain and the rude things said to us—all this with the knowledge and on the advice of Oloang Sabartiban. And the latter had settled the matter in such way that he would be present at this act with the Berckelagh and if he would refuse again, then Sabartiban would take again the matter in hand and would have brought the affair to a happy conclusion. But Berckelagh got wind of it, altered his course and procured a short audience, so that the missive and the gifts of the Governor General have been presented solemnly to the King on the 1st of October. He was pleased very much with the contents, and had such a long and nice conversation with Mr. van Vliet as has not happened for a long time with any delegate, and this is accounted a great honour by the Court. The King promised to favour him in all circumstances so that (if words can be trusted) there is no doubt of it.

After all these troubles van Vliet asked Berckelagh and Oloangh Sabartiban through Sediarnet to settle the question about Raja Ebrahim, but they pretended that nobody was so bold as to address the King again about this matter. At last he succeeded in getting 61 catty Siamese coins in Sapanwood on account of the King—this being as much as Oloangh Sabartiban said he had found in the books of the deceased—and 23 catty 7 taylor 8 maes on the 54 catty 10 taylor 14 maes, their claim on the Prince. On account of the King 19 catty 18 taylor 11 maes remains, and on account of the Prince 31 catty 3 taylor 6 maes—together 51 catty 2 taylor 1 maes, or f. 6,132.78—but van Vliet thinks it improbable to get back this money. From these things it can be understood how dangerous it is for the Company's servants to manage the Company's affairs under the reign of this glorious King,—he is not tyrannical or bloodthirsty, but suspicious, credulous and untimely in his judgments.

During these troubles the Portuguese delegate had tried to make a great hit by making our people still more odious, and for that purpose presented to Berckelagh a remonstrance which showed, with many lies and falsehoods, our trade in that country and what sort of goods were transported every year by the Company's ships, and gave such an importance to it that if our principals were going to miss it for three years they would have to leave the whole of India. It was further stated that the timber which we get from Siam is our only support and safety, and that if the King would prohibit the export we should have no means for keeping in repair our vessels, and then the sea would be opened for the Portuguese and they would come from different quarters, detailed in the remonstrance, with not less than forty vessels to Siam, which vessels were now obliged to stay away on account of the Hollanders. This proposal has been accepted as the truth by the thoughtless Berckelagh,

and he showed it to the credulous King, who approved immediately, and on Berckelagh's demand informed all the factors through the Oya Sicri that the export of wood would be prohibited for the Hollanders. When the usual time had come our people, ignorant of this, asked for a license for exporting our lot of timbers and planks, but this was refused, and notwithstanding that they did make complaint of this improper refusal, and showed that the ships were coming already and that they were obliged in this way to return without cargo and that the wood had been bought 2 or 3 years ago and had been kept in stock. At first they received no answer, but afterward Okpra Rajmontri informed them that the King and the Berckelagh were dissatisfied as the toy boat asked for his Majesty's Children had not been sent. At last our people resolved to gain favour of Berckelagh by means of presents. The result was, that he asked the King for the license a third time (so he pretended) and obtained that the wood which was in stock might be exported to a limit of 200 timbers and as many planks.

To reward the good services rendered in these matters by Oloangh Sabartiban, they gave him a present and also to the jealous Opra Rajmontri for shutting his villainous mouth as much as possible.

Some people are of the opinion that in future it will be forbidden to buy or to export any wood in Siam but our people who are in possession of a large quantity had not spoken a of new purchase.

As things looked our people would get in a short time in as great favour as ever before, for the King himself seemed to have compassion and had caused an order to be issued on his own account, that Mr. van Vliet might follow him, when he went out by land on horseback and by water in proas, a thing which is appreciated at court and among the lower people as a great distinction. About the freedom and negotiation this

would be procured by Berckelagh in course of time, for it seemed that his affection for the Portuguese began to lessen. But this could not be relied upon, on account of the great fickleness of the Siamese court.

After the demonstration of Berckelagh, the King caused orders to be issued that on penalty of death no merchants, native or foreign, might give credit to the other party, but all had to trade on cash terms. This would be excellent if it became customary, and if breaches of the order were punished. But van Vliet did not know one merchant in the whole town who could come on the market with 10 catty money, as the merchant has to buy first the goods on credit from the foreign traders and to send them through the whole country for sale, and only when they get their payment they can pay the traders. Accordingly the prohibition stopped trade in the whole town, and our people were very anxious, as those with whom the Company had negotiated there, were generally the King's slaves, as Sadianget (!), Opra Choduck, etc., and if one of them comes to die the King takes the inheritance and can use the prohibition to get rid of the Company's claims.

It is said that this prohibition was issued so that the foreign traders should deal with his factories as no one else is powerful enough to pay for merchandise of importance with money down.

Since the Berckelagh had boasted that the King's soldiers could find Batavia and capture it, strange comedies have happened. The King had called all the mandarins to arms, and each of them was ordered to keep among his slaves a number of armed soldiers, and also to have some elephants and horses trained for war, so that many of them are daily occupied with nothing else than training their people, elephants and horses. All the weapons, especially guns, had to be on the

Siamese pattern or they were broken into pieces. Besides the King had ordered some Moors to make charts of the Indian Ocean, of its coasts and islands, with indication of the distance of different countries, and they gave themselves the appearance as if all this would remain unknown to our people. The Opra Rajmontri had told them many laughable stories to let our people believe (so it seemed) that the King was not wanting in forces to capture countries and towns.

In the beginning of the southern monsoon the King had sent one of his junks to the Emperor of Japan with a delegate and a letter, together with presents. The letter was engraved on gold and stated that the King of Siam asked the Emperor of Japan to excuse and to forget his treatment of the Japanese then residing in Siam, as the Japanese themselves had been the cause of it, and that therefore there should not be separation, between two such famous countries which possessed the greatest, most beautiful, richest and best parts of the world. For that purpose he was sending a delegate with a letter engraved on gold, to renew the old peace and friendship, with the confidence that this would please his Imperial Majesty and that the Japanese nation would be allowed to trade again in Siam, under the promise and assurance that they always would be treated honestly and favourably.

Praying further that the Siamese merchants who would come there in future with their junks might enjoy the Imperial favour and that they might trade there freely, the King stated that he would always appreciate this with gratitude and that Japanese coming to Siam would reap the benefit. And to get a proof of the Emperor's affection he prayed his Imperial Majesty to grant his delegate permission to export from Japan 10 fine horses, so much catty weight gold, quantities of copper, bar iron, camphor and sulphur

sending in sign of true affection to his Imperial Majesty the following gifts :—

- 1 creese, long 2 asta, handle and sheath covered with gold and set with 340 rubies ;
- 1 creese, long 1 asta, handle and sheath as before and set with 230 rubies ;
- 2 Siamese muskets, the barrels inlaid with gold, and the locks of solid gold ;
- 10 pieces Chinese silk embroidery ;
- 5 painted garments of St. Thome ;
- 2 picul elephant tusks, 2 tusks in 1 picul.

Moreover the delegate had about 200 pieces of silk embroidery to distribute among the nobles. The Berckelangh sent also letters to the Nobles of that Empire, honouring each of them with 2 cases Bengal and with 2 bad chits.

The Siamese mandarins and the Japanese to Siam expected much of this embassy, being convinced that the long desired peace would come by this means that the trade would be opened for Siam and the Japanese would be allowed to sail again to Siam without trouble. Our people did not have such a confidence, but had warned president Caron about it, and had made many proposals designed to make the embassy odious and without result. What will be the outcome, time will show.

In the same way the King had sent a letter engraved on gold to the King of China, containing courtly compliments for maintenance of their friendship. The presents which were added to the letter consisted of 4 piculs agilla-wood, 2 piculs cloves, 4 piculs elephant tusks and some pieces fine linen.

The Portuguese merchants from Negapatam had been attacked last February by robbers at night, on their voyage to Tannaseri, not far from Bangkok, and two of them had been slain on the spot ; one had died after a short time and all the others had been badly wounded. They had been robbed of 172 catties

Siamese coins and of the value of 52 catties in gold and of some jewels and some silk embroidery. The murderers (of whom the former interpreter Omon Trempenit was the chief) fell into the hands of justice and to the Portuguese restituted: 9 catties 8 tayl 12 maes. Twenty catties had been promised, but they received 11 catties only, and with this sum they started again for Tenassarj with the intention of claiming in the beginning of the monsoon the cost of their voyage to Negapatam.

The Cotopsiase delegate had arrived in the beginning of March in Siam, but in spite of all his trouble he never could give a true account of himself. At last Sdiamet took the matter in hand and procured his freedom, permission for his departure and the restitution of his property, under stipulation that in a short time a beautiful gift for the King from Cotopsia would come in gratitude, and that the delegate would start for Tanassari very soon.

The Bengalese ambassador had received license to export some elephants, besides a letter in answer, but no presents, in spite of the excellent presents from the Nabob and of the many gifts to his Majesty's mandarins.

The trade of the Portuguese had turned out very badly. They had sold only a few goods, besides the spianlter and the radix china which were sold at such a low price that there could not have been any profit at all. Perceiving that they could not dispose of their silk embroidery there, they intended to sail for Manilha. Notwithstanding that the ambassador had already got leave from the King and letters and gifts in reply to the Captains at Macao, the Portuguese further obtained by their swaggering, through the Berckelagh, a letter from the King to the Governor and magistracy of Manilha, in which he asks them again to come and trade in Siam. The Maccoase delegate Francisco Daginaer Evangelio and Father Pedro d'Aginare, who had stayed there last



year were delegated to present this letter solemnly at Manilla.

Mr. van Vliet is of the opinion, that if the Portuguese are driven off from Macao by the Cantonese mandarins, which is probable, they will try to come to Siam. But they fear that as long as our people are staying there, they never will gain the full favour of the King and of the Nobles; therefore they try by all means to make our people odious. Our people had complained many times against their slanders to Berckelagh, but in vain for he made the King believe that, by treating those Portuguese well, others will be allured to come to trade in Siam, and to this the King pays much attention.

From Bengal another ambassador had come with a letter, and a gift of two horses and of some fine linen, besides a cargo of 15 bundles of white cloth. The ambassador had asked for an audience and was well treated; his principal request was for permission to export some elephants, but this was not granted. On the 3rd of August another Portuguese vessel, which came from Macassar, had come to Bangkok. The captain was called Juan de Strados, a Scotchman by birth, who had lived more than 45 years in Spain and in India. His yacht had a cargo of 160 piculs of sandal-wood, 90 piculs of sulphur, 30 piculs cloves, some hair for finishing ropework, and 800 bundles of rattan-wood, besides a letter of introduction and a small present for the Berckelagh from the regent of Macassar. The captain has been treated wondrously well, but he has sold nothing up to this date, so he will make a bad voyage.

On the 18th four vessels arrived from Patany, which brought golden and silver flowers from the Princess there, in token of submission. The delegates were received in audience by the King. The cargo of

their junks consisted of lots of pepper, rattan and other trifles; they are allowed to export rice and they had the intention of sailing on the first of next month.

With one of the vessels from Patany a delegate came from Johore, with a golden letter and with a small present for the King. An audience has been granted to him, and he has been treated kindly. Mr. van Vliet asked in his missive to be released from the direction of the factory in Siam as his time had nearly expired, and for permission to return next year to the fatherland.

Behind the Company's factory a small field has been sown with indigo, which had come up and ripened in four months; the second harvest looks very well—as to the result, time will tell.

3rd December, 1640. The frigate de Saayer, which had left Siam on the 10th of November, arrived at Batavia with a cargo. With regard to the fact that a large cargo was waiting in the factory for transportation to Batavia, that there was scarcely any cash in hand, and that, it is to be feared that this year there will be no vessels for transport of the cargo, one has to take into consideration if it would not be advisable to buy a large quantity of timber, principally for the purpose of setting at nought the King's and the Berckelagh's views; at the same time we have to ask Berckelagh if it is possible to buy timber without permit. In the affirmative case timber has to be bought for all the ready cash in hand, in the contrary case it is not advisable to act against the King's command without special order.

Sediamet has bought diamond rings for 3000, 1080 and 420 guilders and paid for the two smallest cash and has promised to pay the 3000 guilders in a short time. The King has caused a claim to be made for the ring No. 33 by Oloangh Sabartiban, and has offered 8 catties Siamese

for it, but Mr. van Vlieth could not give it for that price, so on Sabartiban's advice Sediamet had added one catty of his own to please the King, and the ring has been sold for 1080 guilders. The Company's business was (the Lord be praised!) on good terms again. Mr. van Vlieth was in good and agreeable esteem with the King; apparently the King likes the Netherlanders and often praises them, which causes that our people are highly respected. Berckelagh had advised Mr. van Vlieth to ask the Heer Governor General for a toy-vessel for the King's son of a width of 4 or 5 feet and the length in proportion of Dutch shape with galley, galleon, masts, sails, etc. But on perceiving through many causes that it was destined for Opra Rajmontrj he refused it politely, but said that if the King would like it he would write to the Heer Governor General to send him the necessary timbers. He had, however, heard nothing more about the matter.

Last year Justus Lampen had sent him a painting of the Prince of Orange in full armour on horseback in the field: as soon as Opra had seen it he forced Mr. van Vlieth to honour the King with it; this painting had pleased him very much. Since then Opra had often asked him if it was not possible to get over horses from Holland and to write to the Governor General about it, but Mr. van Vlieth had always said that this was impossible. He had also to sacrifice to the King the paintings of a Javanese and his wife and of the sea battle of the admiral Jacob Heemskerk, which paintings Mr. van Vlieth had ordered from Lampe out of curiosity for decorating his room. Mr. van Vlieth had told the Opra Rajmontrj that these objects had not been sent for sale, or for giving away, but for decoration of the house. Two other paintings, however, he added, had been sent by the Company, and if these paintings pleased His Majesty, he could get them for a low price. But he received the cheap answer that it was not the intention to pay for the paintings. After

this Opra Rajmontrj had asked our people many times to ask the Governor General for the paintings of the three finest and the best horses in Holland, one horse carrying a man in armour, the other, being tired, in the act of lying down and the third horse eating on a green meadow, which were to be painted in Holland and to be sent to the King; also two paintings of elephants, height  $5\frac{1}{2}$  asta and 6 asta. Mr. van Vlieth, on seeing that he was to be defrauded, had rejected the proposals and had answered that it would be better if Berckelagh would try to obtain from the King, a favorable answer to the Governor General's missive sent hither with a fine present, and added that he had often asked for many curiosities for the King but when his Majesty had received them he never sent anything worthy in return. If the King wanted something such as a toy ship, paintings or other things, His Majesty could write himself to his Honour. Mr. van Vlieth thought that His Hon. the Governor General's order to capture every ship (with exception of those coming from Jamby and Palembang) sailing without passports was inadvisable, troublesome, and dangerous about this quarter. The gulf of Siam is navigated extensively from one port to another by His Majesty's subjects, most of whom can get no passports from us; if they were attacked, it would cause great trouble for the Company in Siam.

The president Caron reports in a missive, which has arrived here on the 6th of December from Japan, that he had done his very best to get 400-600 piculs tin from China but in vain, as the export of tin from China was absolutely prohibited.

13 May 1641.

The frigate "de Ryp" arrives from Siam with the chief merchant Jeremias van Vlieth and with a missive from the King of Siam to the Governor General, which runs, translated, as follows: (Title

unreadable): "The chief-advocate at court of all the foreigners, coming from the West or from the East to this kingdom, sends this letter with a devout heart and with a pure mind by order and in the name of the King of the golden horn, of the white, of the red and of the round-tailed elephant, which three travelling animals have been given by the highest God only to our King, whose name and honour therefore is spread everywhere and his name is spread though the whole world with such authority, power and respect, that all the enemies are frightened, terrified and overwhelmed because His Majesty, like the four armed war-god Pra Naray is the greatest, the richest, the wisest, the mightiest, the happiest and the most terrible King on earth, to the Noble, generous, wise, severe Heer Anthonio van Diemen, Governor General of the Government of the United Netherlands in India Orientalis,

"Great and mighty Sir,

"The worthy missive and the rich presents for the King, sent by your Honour successively to the Capt. Jeremias van Vlieth, have been presented solemnly, with our aid, after the fashion of the court, and have been accepted by His Majesty, with grace.

"The King, our lord, has learned from Your Honour's worthy missives with great pleasure Your Honour's pure affection to His Majesty, and to the Siamese kingdom, which the King accepted in good faith. His Majesty's affection to Your Honour is so great, that it never can decrease, which fact has the result that the Siamese and the Netherlands nation are like one nation on the earth, and this must necessarily be a reason for strengthening our allied friendship and for frightening our enemies, as the Siamese Kingdom and the Netherlands Government are bound to each other by long entertained friendship, as firmly as if they had been welded to each other

like costly wrought metal, from which friendship we may expect in time of distress such assistance that the enemies will be deterred and that we can possess our states in peace.

“The King, our Lord, is (as is becoming) very careful of the welfare of his country and of his subjects and tries to guard them as the apple of his eye, and His Majesty has placed in all the capital governments and high offices, venerable men, that his Kingdom may be governed with more care. But as the King has entertained his unbroken friendship with the King of Holland for such a long time and as Your Honour is placed by His Highness in such an important government, His Majesty has favoured Your Honour not less than his own greatest mandarins and worthiest friends. Your Honour may rely upon that. Moreover our King has always so great a sympathy for the Netherlands nation in general and for your Honour’s residents here in particular, as their honesty and their true intercourse has been proved to His Majesty.

“On Your Honour’s demand the King, our Lord, has granted to Capt. van Vlieth that the Christian children, born from Netherlands parents, might leave this country to be educated in your language, religion and morals, according to Your Honour’s wish.

“Before this letter was sent the King, our lord, has sent a letter engraved on gold, with the delegate Joost Schouten and a present in reply to the King of Holland. Up to now His Majesty has received no intelligence of this sending, which astonishes and grieves us.

“Therefore we beg Your Honour to send as soon as possible the assurance of the receipt by His Majesty, which will spread the fame of our friendship to all the parts of the world, and the Netherlands negotiat-

ing in His Majesty's kingdom will be the better for it and will be favoured still more.

“ As Capt. van Vlieth has resided for a long time in this kingdom, he is acquainted with the customs of this country and of the court. So he will inform Your Honour completely of the King's affection for Your Honour and for the Netherlands nation. His Majesty and we all wish that after the settlement of his affairs, this Captain may return within a short time. This will be agreeable to our King, as the King is anxious for his return. In token of unbroken friendship His Majesty sends a gold sword, the sheath and the handle set with rubies, also two muskets decorated with gold and with silver, with accessories. Pray do not take this present according to its value but take it as a token of His Majesty's good affection and due friendship.

“ Written in the royal city of Judia, in the year of the cow, the 8th day of the 4th waning moon [i. e., 2 March 1641.] ”

With the same frigate His Honour received a missive from the Berckelagh in Siam in his own name, of the following contents:

“ This letter comes from me, Oya sy Dharmarāj, keeper of the King's great seal, collector-general of one fourth of His Majesty's rich revenues, chief advocate and adviser of all the foreigners in His Majesty's kingdom, who writes with a pure heart and with true affection to the Noble, wise, generous, severe Heer Anthonio van Diemen, Governor General of the Government of the United Netherlands in India Orientalis.

“ Noble Sir.—On the occasion of the visit of Capt. Jeremias van Vlieth to Batavia I am ordered to inform your Honour that the King, our lord, has sent a junk of 18½ by 3¼ fathoms to Batavia

for the welfare of his subjects and for encouragement of the Batavian trade. This junk was manned with 61 persons: Siamese, Malay and Chinese, and was armed with four copper guns, 4 musquets and 15 Japanese rifles; it was loaded with 200 loads rice and other victuals and 6 bars lead, everything on account of our King. Sixteen months ago it sailed for Batavia but by ignorance of the mate it has not arrived there (so we are informed) but it went to Patany. On the return Heequa, Chinese mate, has killed all the Sannete and Malays and escaped criminally with the junk and with the capital, but we do not know to which port. For the sake of the friendship that Your Honour entertains towards the King, our lord, we pray Your Honour to order every port of Your Honour's authority or where Netherlanders negotiate, that the junk may be sought, captured, brought to Batavia and that the case may be treated according to Your Honour's famous judgment. In case that our request may be granted, the fame of Your Honour's friendship and laudable name will be with us everlasting, and it will please us so much that we cannot compare it with anything, therefore we pray Your Honour again to take our request into consideration. We are always willing to reward such a laudable action with true friendship.

“The King, our lord, will be pleased very much, if Your Honour would be kind enough to order a toy ship to be made for His Majesty's son, the young prince, wide 4 feet and length according after the Dutch shape with all the necessary accessories; also, as some Netherlanders are very skilled in the art of painting, we pray Your Honour to order that two elephants high 2 asta (the models of which accompany this letter) be artistically painted and sent to Captain van Vlieth (with the ship) hither within a short time. The King, our lord, has a great desire for the things asked for (as we have



told many times to Capt. van Vlieth), which makes us bold in asking. Truly, Sir, His Majesty will be very glad when he gets the ship and the painting and will reward it gratefully to Your Honour's trade and residents. We will await with devotion Your Honour's decision on our petition and we all will be glad to see Capt. van Vlieth back again."

"In the Royal city of Judia in the year of the cow, the 8th day of the 4th waning moon, ( 2 March 1641 ).

20 May 1641.

His Honour's order to give no passports to any ships going to the coasts of China, Siam, or Japan, nor to any *sea convoy*, going from Goa to Cambaya or going back, will strictly be executed in spite of the proceedings which the governor Mirmousa might have against it.

5 September.

The yachts "Snoeck" and "Heemskercke" sail for Jamby and Siam, with a cargo value 40,345 gld. for Jamby and with a cargo value 100,076 gld. for Siam. On board is the chief-merchant Jeremias van Vlieth, as delegate with missive and with some presents for the King and for the Oya Berckelaugh.



## DAILY JOURNAL

kept in Batavia Castle, containing a concise  
account of important facts all over the Nether-  
lands-Indias and more especially concerning Siam.

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1641-1642.

29 November—The vessel “de Snoek,” which had left Siam on the 24th of October, arrived with a cargo and with advices of the delegate Jeremias van Vlieth and of the merchant Reynier van Tzum. The merchant van Tzum reports that, after the departure of the chief-merchant van Vlieth, last March, the Company’s business and negotiations had been managed by him with some success, and that he had brought together the cargo for the vessel *Maria de Medicis* ( which had arrived on the 3rd of June on the Siamese river ) bound for Japan and Tayowan. On the 27th of June the vessel started for Japan with much cargo, after having been in great danger outside the Siamese bar through strong southerly gales, by which she lost three anchors.

The 50,000 deer hides asked for had been collected with great trouble as hides had been bought up by the Chinese and by the Japanese ( who had sent them to Japan via Quinam ); but elephant tusks, rhinoceros horns, bird skins and nests had been offered cheaply, so a large quantity had been bought and shipped to Japan and Tayowan. The King’s junk which sailed last year with Siamese goods for Japan, was shipwrecked on the coast of Cochin-China.

The delegate Jeremias van Vlieth reports that on arriving on the 23rd of September at the Siamese river, he went himself immediately to the town of Judia, and informed the Berckelangh of his arrival bringing letters from His Highness the Prince of Orange and from the “Heer” Governor General of India, besides rare gifts. This was reported to the King, who was very pleased and who immediately ordered that the reception of his Highness’ letter (engraved on gold after Siamese fashion) should take place with more splendour and pomp than ever had been shown to the letters of the King of China or

of the Emperor of Japan. This was effected magnificently with many people, ships and great reverence to the princely letter (the same reverence as to the King himself); His Majesty had sent 20 small metal guns to the Company's compound, with which salutes were fired. The procession of 1200 armed soldiers and musicians was received in the palace, where the letter was opened and translated in the presence of many great personages and then the letter was immediately brought to the King. His Majesty was so pleased with it, that he declared he never had received a more agreeable missive and that he would cause it to be deposited, after the fashion of the court, with the gold statues of the deceased kings and with the gold letters of the monarchs of China, Japan and Pegu.

The next day the letters of the Heer Governor General were taken with due honour from the factory and translated in the presence of many of the nobility; the King was pleased with the letters, but Berckelagh's orders remained in force although somewhat modified, as has been proved by the King's licence, which had just been obtained. The four Netherlands children, who had been sent for the study of the country's language, literature and arts, pleased the King very much. He offered to lodge them in his palace and to educate them in his service; the delegate had excused them, but anyhow he was ordered to bring them with him and to show them at the audience. The delegate's audience with the King had been postponed till after the end of the ceremony of the hair-cutting of his Majesty's eldest son and through a mistake of the sabander was postponed till after the departure of the vessel "de Snoek." But his Majesty had let the delegate know, that there was no doubt about his royal favour and that his kingdom would be open for the Netherlands and their trade. He had also ordered the Berckelagh to assist our people in their requests and to provide the delegate with letters to the rulers of Lygor, Sangora, Bordelough and

Patany for his visit to the gulf of Siam. Also he consented to the purchase of 5000 piculs sappanwood and that the payment might be postponed till the arrival of our vessels from Japan.

Neither the King nor the Berckel'angh had been pleased by the gift which accompanied his Highness's letter or with the missive of the Hon. Heer General; so the gift had to be increased to keep his Majesty's favour and the Berckel'angh's necessary assistance; the paintings of the elephants had not found favour either.

The jewels had pleased the king, especially that he might choose before the Atchinese king, but they had been valued by his obsequious jewellers without any cause far below their value, the Atchinese  $\frac{2}{3}$  and the big diamond ring  $\frac{1}{3}$  of cost-price, so there is apparently no chance of selling one of the jewels.

14 December 1641. The frigate "Uigeest" arrives from Siam with cargo and with two young elephants. The delegate Jeremias van Vlieth and the merchant Reynier van Tzum send their reports, dated 4 and 7 November. The delegate reports that he has had an audience of the King in company with the merchants van Tzum and Moerdyck on the 29th of October; at that audience he has delivered solemnly to his Majesty the missive and the presents of his Serene Highness the Prince of Orange, together with those of the Heer Governor General. The large mirror being the most agreeable gift for him, his Majesty caused it to be assessed by four delegates, who valued it at 4 catties or 360 guilders; the king and Berckel'angh were discontented with this small estimate, saying that such a beautiful curiosity was worth 10 catties or 1200 guilders and that they had never received a present, which pleased them more.

In Siam the letters of the Sire Prince of Orange meet with much success; however the delegate thinks it better to discontinue these letters as the respect in

which the Governor General is held is decreased by them ( to the detriment of the Company ), and that therefore he has the intention to treat the matters in that way ( if possible ) that the letter of the King to His Highness of Orange will be neglected or the answer at least postponed for some years.

The King has paid his yearly visit to the principal temple for bringing his offerings to the Gods and to the clergy, and was accompanied by the delegate by order of his Majesty. His Honour rode behind the Oyas or gentlemen of the highest rank, and the other Netherlanders got good seats with all the foreign delegates and merchants. Our people had been placed at the high end and the Portuguese at the lowest end which after the custom of the country is considered a great honour for the Netherlanders.

The Portuguese negotiation in Siam is going on very badly, and ship-building proceeds slowly, probably the vessel will not be ready within the year. The King has ordered that nobody, except Portuguese, may enter the Papist church or go to mass, upon pain of death.

The King has presented two elephants, one for the Hon. Heer General (high  $3\frac{1}{2}$  asta) and the other for the delegate ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  asta). For the larger one 10 Simese catties or 1,200 guilders was offered by the Moors; they were both sent hither with this ship.

The second merchant Bocatius Pontanus has examined the crop of Siamese indigo, prepared after the fashion of the country; he judged the substance good but it was spoiled in preparing it with lime, which matter has to be investigated.

It was rumoured abroad that the King had the intention to send again a commission to Japan, therefore a new junk from Tiaya or a vessel from Oya Lygor is expected.



By order of the Siamese King some Lygorese had been sent seven months ago with seven ships to the islands of Tenasserim to make a careful examination of the pearl-fisheries and had got about a bowlfull; among them were some big ones but for the greater part they were small. It is certain that the coast of this country at the North of Bangery is rich in pearls, but for the Company there is nothing to be done by the help of the people of that country unless they receive the special consent of his Siamese Majesty; it had to be managed with our own servants, vessels and materials in proper time, in December, January or February.

24th February 1642. The frigate *Castricum* arrives from Siam with a cargo, sent on 27 January from Siam, and with reports from the delegate van Vlieth and from the merchant van Tzum.

As the delegate van Vlieth had to start on the 27th of December of last year for his voyage to the bay of Patany, he had asked Oya Berckelagh several times after the departure of the frigate *Uitgeest* to get leave soon and to know if the King had the intention to answer the missive of the Prince of Orange. The delay was excused on account of the King's business with the important yearly waterfeast and of the delegate's quick departure, and he had asked too if the Heer General's letter could not be answered before that date, but he could get no letter from His Majesty before the end of the feast.

Notwithstanding that Berckelagh and some great gentlemen had advocated for some years the sending of large quantities of jewels, only one-third of the real value of the Atchinese jewels was offered. This was due to the misdeeds of Oluangh Sarbartiban and the King's ignorant jewellers, trying to compel our people to sell them for that price by unbecoming threats. That demand has been properly opposed and only one ring (value 335 guilders), which Sediomet had tried

to sell to the King for 35 *tayl* or 210 guilders, has been extorted by force and this has been suffered to be done to prevent trouble. So by the King's cupidity and by Sabartiban's insatiable avarice the Company had to suffer a loss of 60 reals of 8.

At last on the 20th of December the delegate received permission to leave from the King in a solemn audience, which according to the customs of the Siamese court was accompanied with many ceremonies and many compliments of true friendship for the prince of Orange and for the Governor-general. His Majesty promised to take captain Reynier van Tzum and the other residents under his royal protection, which was accepted with great gratitude and has been described circumstantially in the delegate's journal.

The three Netherlands boys, sent hither with the delegate for learning the Siamese language, had been living with honest people ; in the beginning the King had given himself much trouble in that matter and had the intention to educate them among his pages in the palace and to give them marks of honour, but that had been excused and prevented by our people because of the resulting slavery.

The delegate had been informed by many Moorish merchants and by the Bengalese ambassador, that there were many big and beautiful elephants in the forests of Malacca, but that it was prohibited by the Portuguese government to catch them and they said that therefore they had to give yearly big presents to Siam for exporting elephants from there, and if it was allowed to catch elephants in Malacca they would be assured of a great export. His Honour was willing to call at Malacca on the way to Batavia and to speak with vice governor van Twist about this matter, which he thought to be of great importance for the trade of Malacca.

To facilitate delegate van Vlieth's voyage to the Siamese gulf he took with him on his demand by the King's order letters of introduction from Bercelagh to the Queen of Patany and to the governors of the provinces Lygor, Sangora, Bordelough and Tsaya. So, after having taken leave of the nobles of the kingdom and of the Company's residents and after having given final instructions to the merchant van Tzum, he left the capital Judia on the 28th of December and started from the anchorage for the Siamese gulf on the last of December with the warship Heemskerck with a cargo, which is to be sold at the ports of call. The merchant Reynier van Tzum reports that most of the merchandise is lying unsold in the stores and that it will not fetch the price of last year as Siam has no wealthy merchants now.

An ambassador from Langhsiagh has arrived in Siam and some Laos merchants with gold, benjamin and gumlac. They are willing to let our people have some benjamin and some lac at a reasonable price.

Our people have the intention to buy next season some fields planted with Siamese indigo, to make a trial of it, and to hire workmen for this purpose from the Chinaman Ockhun Pysoet. The sample of Surat indigo was shown to some Siamese indigo experts, who maintained that the Siamese indigo could also be prepared in that way and that it was better than the Chinese indigo.

19 March 1642.

In his letter, dated 17 February 1642, sent with the frigate "de Zaayer" from Siam, the merchant van Tzum reports that the king has presented him in his function of temporary delegate with a silver betel-box, which according to the custom of the country is a very honorable sign of noble dignity, for use in public in honour of the Netherlanders and in personal respect.

Mr. van Tzum has made a complaint against the present Berckelagh, only because this gentleman had brought through his extreme selfishness many obstacles against the granting of permits for unloading of cargo, so that he prevented the "de Zaayer" from quick unloading and sailing in time. Without the faithful help of the sabander and of the interpreters it would have taken still more time and it is to be feared the Berckelagh will force the vessels to come before the town, to get more money from them, and this will mean a disadvantageous loss of time and will cause endless difficulties, against which all the practical ways have to be used.

28 May 1642.

The yacht of war Heemskerck arrives from Siam with the delegate van Vlieth, who gives a report of his voyage.

On the 3rd of February the delegate van Vlieth landed at Sangora and was received by the governor, who was angry at the Berckelagh's letter, saying that his country was open to the Netherlands without Siamese introduction and that the letter had not been necessary. This and other haughty acts displeased the Hon. van Vlieth, the more as he found that the Company could do nothing in that poor place, as after the destruction and the following reconstruction of Sangora pepper had not been planted, nor had tin been mined, trees had been cut down for timber and in the cloth-trade there was nothing to do through the poverty of the community, so he went on to Bordelongs as soon as possible. The delegate crossed the lake between Sangora and Bordelongs in a proa. At Bordelongs he was kindly received and treated by the governor, who received the Berckelagh's letter with deep respect and who offered all the assistance which was in his power. As after the recent destruction here also, nothing could be done for the Company, his Honour returned on the same day to Sangora, where

he arrived on the 7th of February. He went on board and started for Patany immediately, without taking leave of the proud gentleman, as he would not be insulted again by such a shabby fellow who had shown disrespect towards the Netherlanders.

On the 15th of February the delegate van Vlieth landed in Patany. He was welcomed by many of the nobility and conducted at once very solemnly to an audience in the palace, which after the custom of the country was magnificently decorated. There the queen was seated on her golden throne. After having received and read Berckelagh's letter and after having kindly welcomed the delegate, she asked him what he had to propose or to ask, to which the delegate answered that her highness's predecessors had violated the contracted alliance with the Netherlands' government by taking their property as prize. The "Heer" Governor-General claimed restitution of it, the more as her reigning highness had sent two years ago delegates to Batavia for settling the matter and as last year she appeared in Siam to renew the peace. To this the queen answered immediately, that the doings of her predecessors had to be forgotten (as already long ago), that she had shortly after her succession made peace with the king of Siam without any indemnity, and that she wanted to treat in the same way with the heer General. There was at once a lengthy discussion on the proposal and on the answer thereto between the high officials and the delegate. But when the delegate started to make preparations for leaving the queen declared, after a discussion with the high officials, that as indemnity her highness discharged the Company during the three following years from all customs and duties, and thereby the peace would be renewed as before. She only wanted the heer General to cause this declaration of peace to be published and to order that the Patanese might sail and trade freely everywhere. Also she begged that the Netherlanders' trade in Patany would be continued, to prove in that way

that the old alliance was entirely renewed, in token of which her highness sent a missive to the Hon. Heer General for confirmation.

The cause of the delegate's visit to Malacca was to consult Mr. van Twist about the capture of the elephants and to attract the Moorish merchants hither, as it is sure that many elephants of good race are in the forests of Malacca and come daily near the city-walls. Many people are assured they have seen a white elephant, so that the capture of these animals can take place there as well as in Siam, Atchin, and elsewhere. The Moors of Bengale and Choromandel give themselves much trouble about these animals in Siam, Atchin, Ceylon, Pegu, Arracan, Queda and other Malay countries, and pay a high price, ten times as much as 6 years ago; they even suffer therefor endless troubles in the Siamese kingdom. To catch elephants in Malacca it would be necessary to use female elephants from Siam, Ceylon or Atchin, and well skilled people, who could train the Company's slaves in the capture in a short time.

The governor or master of Oedjongh Sakangh had brought unreasonable actions and had committed unbearable acts of violence against the merchant Joris Vermeeren, had done harm to our cloth trade and put many obstructions against the buying of tin. In many ways too, he had tried to corrupt the merchant Vermeeren with gambling and playing, as the assistant Hendrik van Naples and others had been before him. After many mutual broils the unreasonableness of this proud Siamese went to such a height, that he had shamefully caused a Netherlands soldier to be murdered and had kept 5 other Company's servants for 14 days in strict confinement, everything on pretext that the merchant Vermeeren had visited his mother's house in a hostile way, had fired upon it and had beaten one of the footmen, which is absolutely untrue. Only our people had been by mistake at the

house, when they tried to visit the governor's brother, and a soldier had fired his musquet there without intention, whereupon a drunken slave appeared with a naked creese, which creese was taken away by Mr. Vermeeren, and then he returned home without much trouble. That night the governor had gathered all the people of the surrounding villages by blowing on a horn and the next morning the said soldier Hendrick Barentsen was murdered infamously (when he was engaged in washing his clothes in the river) by 50 or 60 armed men, and his poor body nearly cut into pieces, then cast for some hours before the dogs and then by the tyrant's order thrown into a well. The compound had been immediately besieged by enemies from a distance, a Netherlands boy and 4 black servants were made prisoners after much beating, kicking, pushing and dragging.

This siege lasted 14 days without any supply of food, in which time they tried to capture merchant Vermeeren by means of cunning for they dared not openly attack the factory, in which there were only 5 men. At last the question was settled (through intervention of the Moors) and the prisoners were freed. With such barbarism the Sulanghese governors, especially this rascal, have treated Thibaut and Trissens and the first (as is said) they killed with poison. Mr. van Twist is of opinion that these outrageous acts have to be punished severely as an example to the surrounding people that we may not meet any more with such insult and shame from others, the more as this punishment can easily be effected and the conquest of this island, which is rich in tin, will be of great use to the Company. The merchant Vermeeren proves (as formerly the late Mr. Thibaut did) that this island is easy to conquer, for there are not more than 500 or 600 Siamese, about 100 black slaves and 100 foreigners: Malays, Chinese, and Moors, mostly beastly drunkards, very cowardly and inexperienced in war; there are no fortifications or guns, so with a

force of 150 or 200 soldiers it can be taken. Afterwards the island could be kept by a small fortress, and by peopling it with 400 or 500 slaves it could produce more than 2,000 bars of tin and 300 loads of rice. The only thing to be kept in careful consideration against this plan is that this country is subject to the Siamese king and that prince will therefore be angry to the disadvantage of the Company's residence in the capital Judia, unless this island was got as a loan from his Majesty (under recognition of tribute), which Mr. Vermeeren thinks probable (if they give him yearly 20 bars tin instead of 10 bars), but which is very much to be doubted.

Mr. van Twist had the intention to settle the trouble with Oedjough Salangh with all his power, after having got aid from Batavia and to transfer the factory from there to Trangh, and to obstruct the trade with Salangh for all the merchants by cruising of a yacht and two sloops. The mentioned Trangh was a proper place, which yearly could export 250 bars tin and as many loads of rice; the merchant Vermeeren had been kindly asked by the master of the town to come hither.

The Governor of Salangh was angry, because of the ill treatment which his ambassadors at Malacca might have had, but they had been received there very kindly and were much better treated and regaled than those dirty messengers ever deserved, so that this gentleman and his servants have shown their barbarous ingratitude after the oriental fashion.

On the 26th of July the vessel "Hollandia" starts from Malacca for Siam with a cargo and the Governor General's letter, together with a present of 1510 guilders for the king of Siam.









